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J-way at canal

Pop star Jessie is among the images at new display

Page 2



Goldie-fishy

What is actor and music star Goldie getting up to?

Page 8



Valiant victory

Saddlers suffer defeat as 66-year record is broken

Page 44



Hirst's art sees visits to gallery up by 20pc

THE number of visitors to Walsall Art Gallery has soared by nearly 20 per cent as people flocked to see an exhibition by controversial artist Damien Hirst.

A total of 235,938 people packed into the £21 million venue during the year-long display – up 18 per cent on the same period the previous year.

Gallery bosses said the Hirst exhibition had proved to be one of their most successful displays, running from October 6, 2012 to October 27 this year.

Gallery director Stephen Snoddy said: "This large increase in attendance figures fully demonstrates that it pays off to be ambitious in our exhibition planning and that the people of the West Midlands have a real interest in contemporary art alongside our marvellous Garman Ryan collection."

Councillor Anthony Harris, cabinet member for leisure and culture at Walsall Council, said: "We're absolutely delighted by the news that the Damien Hirst exhibition has been such a huge success."

The exhibition included major works spanning the whole of Hirst's career including a self-portrait With Dead Head from 1991 and 1994's Away from the Flock, showing a lamb in a tank of formaldehyde.

£46k raised is new record

THE Mayor of Walsall has smashed the record for fundraising for mayoral charities and has so far raised over £46,000.

Councillor Mohammed Nazir is raising money for the St Giles Hospice, Acorn's Children's Hospice and Midland International Aid Trust that works with parents and children in the developing world.

Councillor Garry Perry previously held the fundraising record for the mayor's charity appeal when he raised a total of £41,548 during his term in office.

THREAT TO HEALTH SERVICES IN CUTS

Report by Craig Hughes

IMPORTANT health services in Walsall are under threat, say chiefs who have written to council bosses concerned at the impact of millions of pounds in budget cuts.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust is concerned about savings on short-term residential home placements and children's services as part of the authority's proposed cutbacks.

Chief executive Richard Kirby has now asked Walsall Council for more information so bosses can respond as part of the consultation exercise.

Club dancers are stabbed with needle

TWO women were stabbed with a needle in a nightclub in Walsall as they danced together, police have revealed. The attack on the revellers at Revolution Vodka Bar in Bridge Street mirrors a spate of stabbings in Birmingham in recent months.

The women felt a sharp pain in their upper arm while they were dancing and both believed they had been stabbed by a needle. Their injuries led police to launch an investigation into the attacks.

It comes after up to 11 women were targeted in Birmingham city centre in recent months. Police last month released CCTV of a man they believed was behind the stabbings in Birmingham's Broad Street nightspot. Officers were originally investigating five attacks – but they then received reports of a further six.

Police insist they do not believe the latest stabbings are related to the Birmingham attacks. They are now appealing for witnesses to come forward. Dc Lynsey Damms, from Bloxwich police station, said: "Police in Walsall are investigating two reports of women who were assaulted with what they believe may have been needles while in a Walsall bar. The women were dancing when they felt a sharp pain in the upper arm."

The attacks happened between 12.30am and 1.30am on Sunday.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101.

The cash-strapped authority needs to save £19 million in the next final year with more than 330 posts earmarked for the axe. This includes clawing back cash from departments including social care and £5m from children's services.

In the letter to council chief executive Paul Sheehan, Mr Kirby said he was aware of the financial challenges facing the council. Although in support of some of the proposed budget allocation, representatives of the health trust will be meeting the council for further clarification.

"As you might expect we strongly support the decision to protect the intermediate care services currently provided by the council as far as possible," Mr Kirby said. "It will be more important than ever that these services are able to support people to remain in or return to their own homes as effectively as possible."

Reduction

"We note your proposal to save £1.5m by reducing short-term residential home placements and reducing use of domiciliary care. There are a number of proposed savings that relate to children's services."

"The size of the planned reduction on children's centre spending is particularly important in this context. We understand the scale of the task facing the council but there are a number of savings proposals that could have a very significant impact on the work of the trust about which we do not yet have sufficient information."

Under the initial council proposals some 37 staff would be made redundant from children's centres, where £930,000 will be slashed from the budget. Some taxi journeys for families paid for by the council could also be cut to save £100,000.

The health trust which runs Walsall Manor Hospital has recently revealed it faces having to make savings of up to £13m in 2014/15.

Let's get festive party started



Getting the borough's Christmas started with the event at Bloxwich, is back, Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick and PCSO Emma Matthews, and front, regeneration worker Nikki Rolls

A SPECTACULAR festive-themed light show over a canal basin in Walsall is among the attractions on the way for shoppers at a series of events this Christmas.

Festivities kicked off in Aldridge and Bloxwich at the weekend, and this Saturday will see an ice rink and other attractions running in Willenhall's Stafford Street and

Market Place between 11am and 4pm. In Brownhills and Darlaston the celebrations will be on December 14 featuring similar activities from 10am to 4pm.

At the Town Wharf in Walsall the Magical Waters light and sound show will illuminate the canal basin next to the New Art Gallery on December 14 and 15.

Share the burden of wardens' costs call

A COUNCIL chief in Walsall has insisted schools must 'share the burden' of £19 million of cuts as bosses plan to make them pay for lollipop men and women.

Schools could be forced to pay the wages of the 82 crossing patrol workers across the borough. And though bosses have admitted the crossings could end up withdrawing the patrols, they insist that the cuts are necessary. The proposals have angered Labour opposition deputy leader Councillor Sean Coughlan, who is chairman of governors at Fibbersley Park Primary in Willenhall.

Walsall Council transport boss Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "This is something we are looking at to share the burden. What we don't want to do is cut lollipop services like other areas have done."

The crossing patrols are currently funded by Walsall Council but bosses are looking to make schools pay instead to save £85,000.

Councillor Coughlan said schools were concerned about whether they would be able to afford the wages.

He said: "As a chairman of governors I think Councillor Andrew's words are irresponsible. He knows the pressures that schools are under with decreasing budgets." He added he hoped council chiefs would have a rethink.

Tributes for ex-mayor

TRIBUTES have been paid to former mayoress Mary Westwood, who has died aged 93.

Born and bred in Darlaston, she was the wife of the late former Darlaston South councillor Bill Westwood and served as Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall in the civic year 1985 to 1986.

Family friend Brian John, also a former mayor, said: "She was a lovely lady and anyone who came into contact with her would say that. She was very down to earth."

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NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Clubs	16
Village page	18
What's on	21
TV Listings	22
Property	30
Motoring	36
Classified	38
Sport	43-44

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Respected journalist Dave dies, aged 61



The late Dave Lawley with wife Hilary

A RESPECTED journalist who spent more than three decades covering the area where he grew up has died suddenly.

Dave Lawley was 61, and was renowned for his brilliant sense of humour.

A grandfather-of-one, he began his career on the Warley News Telephone, followed by a brief spell on The Evening Mail in Birmingham before

joining the Express & Star's Cradley Heath office in 1977.

He went on to spend 30 years at the E&S, where he became deputy chief reporter of the Sandwell office, Black Lake, West Bromwich.

He later became a press officer for Sandwell Council, and was a former chairman of governors at Trivdale Junior and Infants School. Friends and family have paid tribute to the

'larger-than-life character'. His wife Hilary, to whom he had been married for 39 years, said: "Almost all of the time, he was joking around. He was a really good family man and adored his daughter Rebecca."

"His grand-daughter Isabelle was the light of his life and, talking to everybody else, he loved me to bits." Former Express & Star chief reporter Ken Tudor, who worked with

Mr Lawley for many years, said: "He was such a funny man with an amazing brain."

He remembered a time Mr Lawley helped dream up an award-winning image - when the number of Tory councillors in Sandwell was cut from 22 down to two in 1996 - Bill Archer and Ray Partridge - and they were pictured having a party meeting in a red phone box.

Son stole goods for drug cash

A SON broke into his parents' home and stole £4,000 worth of property which he sold on to a pawn shop for a tiny slice of its value to feed his drug habit, a court heard.

Aaron Khan was paid £150 for the Kindle reading device and a camera.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the 18-year-old burgled his family's Broadway North home in Walsall, causing damage to a door on October 19. His mother said in a victim impact statement she wanted her son to be punished but did not want him to be held in custody. However Khan must wait until December 12 to learn his fate after sentencing was adjourned.

Mr Edward Soudsby, prosecuting, said: "He wasn't living there and was separated from them due to problems arising from his drug addiction." Mr Paul Andrews, defending, said: "He is taking steps to address his problems. He has got rid of his friends."

Khan was granted conditional bail.

Chad forced to plea over staying in UK

A SPECIAL educational needs worker who hails from America, who has been praised as outstanding in his profession, is having to make a direct plea to the home secretary to remain in the country.

Chad Morris, aged 30, has lived in the UK for seven years, trained in the Midlands, and risen to head up a unit at Walsall College. But he is now facing deportation due to an immigration ruling. The Home Office has said his continued ties to America and the length of time he has lived here do not meet requirements.

Texas-born Mr Morris has been forced to stand down from his job with the risk of leaving the UK imminently, prompting his team of solicitors to now directly appeal to Theresa May to allow him to remain and continue with his work. He moved to the UK in 2006 and studied at Birmingham University.

Evening on way

AN ENROLMENT evening takes place on December 11 from 5-8pm at Walsall Adult & Community College in the Hawthub Centre, Beeches Road, Leamore. For more details call 01922 663000 or visit www.wacc.ac.uk.

Chip shop rage robber locked up over attack

by Craig Hughes

A ROBBER who injured a chip shop owner's neck as he flew into a rage when he was refused free food is now behind bars.

Jonathan Whitter was so angry he could not have the chicken and pie he wanted that he pushed over Manjit Singh and stamped on his chest.

He made a half-hearted attempt to open the cash till before fleeing with the food and some chips, a court heard. The victim has been left afraid to work in the shop at night following the ordeal, which happened at around 9pm on an evening in January this year. Whitter of Rose Hill Gardens, Willenhall, has been jailed for three years and eight months after admitting robbery.

During the sentencing at Birmingham Crown Court the 30-year-old was told that Mr Singh has since recovered from his injuries.

Confidence

But he has lost confidence working at Mile Oak Fish Bar in Tamworth where he was attacked.

Recorder Mr Collingwood Thompson QC was given a victim statement. He told Whitter: "The main effect of what you did has been psychological. He has lost his confidence. He has lost his enthusiasm. He doesn't like working in the shop at night."

"I accept you didn't intend to cause that level of injury, nevertheless I can't ignore the fact he suffered those injuries."

He added that Whitter had been given full credit for his guilty plea but it was fortunate that further injury was not caused by stamping on the shopowner's chest.

Whitter had admitted robbery at a previous hearing at Stafford Crown Court earlier this month. The case had been adjourned for more details about the victim. Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said his client had stolen food but had not taken money. He said the CCTV footage was 'harrowing'.

Amazing painted faces brighten up canal



An amazing portrait



The works by fellow graffiti artists near Walsall Art Gallery



A close-up of artwork

Jessie J is a pop art icon at canalside

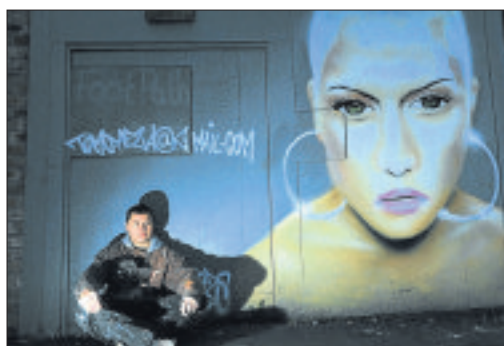
SHE IS one of the most iconic faces of the current UK music scene and now a larger than life homage to Jessie J is on display in Walsall.

The unmissable portrait of the pop star is now helping to brighten up the canalside quarter.

The Price Tag singer, and The Voice judge, is depicted with distinctive short hair and large hoop earrings, with the image taking pride of place at a new street exhibition at Walsall Waterfront. Bland wooden boards have been transformed by a collection of talented artists, adding a dash of colour to the setting.

Other striking images include a bluewash picture of a woman running her hand playfully through her flowing locks as she gazes out from the board, and the artist has incorporated images in her body and clothing such as San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. Another picture depicts a woman's face, with her eye covered by a blue rectangle.

The display has been installed on a row of more than 20 boards under-



Paul Pilgrim by a portrait of Jessie J spray painted on to canal boards

neath apartments built during the regeneration of the area. Half a dozen artists have given the area a makeover. However, the images are only expected to remain for weeks before they are replaced.

It is part of an art project being spearheaded by Paul Pilgrim from Wolverhampton. Artists go by their artistic names and others involved include Desire, Zooki, Meek, Krome and Zed. Paul, who is known as Pilgrim, said each artist has their own style and current trends provide inspiration. "It depends on who is being talked about a lot at the time," he said. "The artist keeps an eye on social media. They have all got their own styles."

The 43 year-old, who works in insurance but classes art as a life-long hobby, said: "It is a hobby, it is a passion I have got. At the time graffiti was used in the late 80s and early 90s it was seen as destructive. In today's modern society, with the urban theme, it has become more acceptable. I'll have another group of artists down here in three weeks to paint over what is there now."

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Jail term suspended for depot cable thief

A METAL thief has narrowly avoided an immediate jail term after he was caught red-handed stealing cables from a railway depot in the middle of the night.

British Transport Police officers carrying out surveillance as part of a crackdown on metal thefts saw Robert Moore remove the cable cords at Bescot rail yard in Walsall.

Moore, 34, of Carrington Road, Wednesbury, admitted stealing multi-cord cable belonging to Network Rail, of a value unknown, on November 28.

Mrs Lauranne Middleton, prosecuting, said during Moore's police interview he said he had walked across the track earlier that day and saw a bag containing cables.

She said he admitted he returned and removed three lengths of cable which he would have sold for scrap. Mrs Middleton told the hearing that Moore had tested positive for cocaine.

Mr Harbinder Gahir, defending, said: "It was simply lying on the ground. This was an opportunist theft."

District Judge Michael Morris, sitting at Walsall Magistrates court, sentenced Moore to eight weeks jail suspended for 12 months with a supervision order. He was also banned from driving for two months and ordered to pay costs of £85.

Electricity supply for 4,000 is hit

ALMOST 4,000 homes were without electricity after a power cut hit, including areas of Walsall.

A fault in an underground cable in Burntwood cut off 3,949 customers in parts of Brownhills, Walsall Wood, Burntwood, Cannock, Lichfield just before 8.30am last Friday.

Around 3,500 customers had power restored within 10 minutes and the majority of the remaining homes had their supply back within an hour. Residents in Hedgesford Road, Brownhills spoke of the problems they faced.

Carer Kerry Murphy said: "I was very worried when the power went off because my 15-year-old son is severely disabled and all of his equipment is electric. I think our house was one of the last ones to have its power restored."

Dog owner who dragged puppy in 10-year ban

A MAN who dragged a nine-week-old puppy along a street has been banned from owning dogs for 10 years after a court heard the animal was found covered in blood.

Members of the public called police after the American bulldog-type animal was heard whimpering, with a chain wrapped around its neck.

Owner Abdul Khadir, aged 32, was said to be drunk when officers went to Prince Street in the Pleck area of Walsall, the town's magistrates were told.

He was taken to Bloxwich police station

where officers discovered he was in possession of cannabis.

Mrs Virinder Bains, prosecuting, said when officers arrived at the scene on the afternoon of August 18 they could see blood on the dog's mouth and paws.

It was taken to a vet, who confirmed there were cuts to the puppy's face.

Mrs Bains said: "He told police the animal may have had bloodied paws due to being pulled."

The puppy was then taken into specialist care as the vet also found it was 'subdued, lethargic and tired'.

Mrs Bains said Khadir told police he had

been drinking heavily and admitted having the cannabis.

Khadir, of Pleck Road, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal and to possession of cannabis at a previous hearing.

Mr David Nash, defending, said: "He was drinking because of financial and relationship issues he was going through at the time. He is an inexperienced dog owner."

"It's a young dog that was in need of some training."

"He was over-zealous with his pulling and tugging of it. He is remorseful."

Khadir was disqualified from keeping

dogs for 10 years and a deprivation order was issued, meaning the puppy will not be returned to him.

Magistrates ordered him to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work and handed him a 12-month supervision order. He was also ordered to pay £100 towards veterinary fees, costs of £85 and a £60 victim surcharge.

Khadir was sentenced for the cannabis offence at an earlier hearing, when he was fined £75 and told to pay a £20 victim surcharge.

Sentencing for the animal cruelty charge had been adjourned for three weeks prior to his appearance.

Hospital chief orders new probe on baby Kyle's death

A FRESH investigation has been ordered into the death of a baby whose stepfather killed him a week after nurses and a junior doctor spotted bruising on his body.

Walsall Manor's chief executive Richard Kirby has launched the new inquiry into treatment of Kyle Keen. Kyle was just 16 months old when he was admitted to Walsall Manor Hospital in June 2006 with a brain bleed.

He had been shaken by his stepfather Tyrone Matthews who was later sentenced to six-and-a-half years in prison for manslaughter.

The hospital was criticised in a serious case review in 2009 after it emerged a week before the baby's death, nurses and a junior doctor spotted suspicious bruises on his body.

They had wanted to refer the matter to social services but under the instruction of a consultant no report was issued. Mr Kirby has now announced a new review will be undertaken.

Kyle's natural father, Robert Keen, who was also suspicious about the bruising, was not made aware of any failings at the time.

But in a letter to Mr Keen, hospital chief executive Richard Kirby, who was not at the helm at the time, said it was standard practice for the full report to be held by the safeguarding board.

Mr Kirby said: "We will be undertaking a further review of this tragic case to

by Deborah Hardiman

ensure that we all understand how this incident was dealt with and whether there are any further lessons for us to learn."

As part of the latest review, an independent team is set to consider whether the hospital was sufficiently open and transparent.

Mr Kirby is also concerned that information was not shared with Mr Keen.

Matthews, of Dale Street, Palfrey, had a history of violence towards Kyle and the boy's mother Kerry Mackintosh.

The baby was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital on June 29, 2006 but was transferred to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire in Stoke where he died the following day. Matthews, then aged 25, denied murder but admitted the lesser charge of manslaughter. McIntosh, then aged 21, of Hatherton Street, Butts, admitted cruelty by neglect.

Arboretum helps plea

THE NATIONAL Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire is looking for volunteers to welcome visitors and help organise events. The site in Alrewas, part of The Royal British Legion family of charities, already has 180 volunteers.

Customer service volunteers get involved in all aspects of meeting and greeting visitors, leading guided tours of the Arboretum and providing information to visitors.

For further information, email Kim Riley on kriley@thenma.org.uk or call 01283 792333.

Daniel on his marks to dig in for school



Athlete Daniel Caines plants a tree on a visit to Elmwood School as part of an unveiling of a new outdoor area

A FORMER athlete marked the unveiling of a new £10,000 outdoor area at a school by planting a special tree.

Daniel Caines was invited along to Elmwood School in Rushall to get his hands dirty at the opening of the new grow zone and adventure barn.

The school landed a £10,000 lottery grant to pay for the transformation. Youngsters are now able to grow their own vegetables, herbs and keep chickens in the grounds of the school.

Dan Whittaker, who is in charge of outdoor learning at the special school,

said: "We have created a grow zone for all the classes."

"We've also got an adventure barn now where the youngsters can take part in archery and we're investing in a climbing wall. The school has been transformed."

NEWS in brief

Winnick's fear of 'unholy alliance'

BRITAIN should be on its guard against an 'unholy alliance' that would seek to undermine an agreement that curbs Iran's nuclear activities, Walsall MP David Winnick has said.

Mr Winnick spoke out during the debate in the House of Commons following an agreement struck after high-powered negotiations.

The Labour MP said: "Is there not a kind of unholy alliance that would want to undermine or destroy the agreement?"

Foreign secretary William Hague said: "We will be on our guard against any attempt to undermine the agreement."

House debates burning topics

TOPICS raised in the Black Country were discussed at a youth parliament debate at the House of Commons.

More than 300 members aged from 11 to 18 gathered for the discussion early this year.

The national Make Your Mark ballot consultation asked over 474,000 to select their priority issues from a choice of 15 topics.

Omo Agbovay, aged 12, and Jade Spruce Powers, 14, are the representatives of the town. Councillor Rachel Andrew, portfolio holder for children's services, said: "Well done to Jade and Omo for their hard work."

Rainwater drain project launched

HIGHWAYS projects have launched a project to clean more than 30,000 rainwater drains.

So far contractors working on behalf of Walsall Council have carried out assessments and cleared some 22,000 of the gullies across the borough.

Regeneration boss Councillor Adrian Bross said: "Together with our contractor we have identified hot spot areas which receive specific attention."

Kissmas call for oral health boost

A DENTAL practice is encouraging its patients to keep their mouths kissable this Christmas.

WS4 Dental Care in Walsall has launched its Merry Kissmas campaign offering free oral health goodie bags to patients.

Dentist Yusuf Kaderhai said: "We thought our campaign would be an ideal way to remind people of the importance of looking after their teeth."

HARRISON'S SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SMOKING is the stupidest thing you can do. It makes you ill, shortens your life and steals your money. So why do so many Brits still smoke? Because the habit is as powerful as heroin. It is a compulsive chemical addiction which non-smokers simply do not understand.

THE truth is out. Immigration Minister Mark Harper says it would actually be illegal for the UK to limit the number of Romanians and Bulgarians allowed into the country. This is why David Cameron has been flailing around trying to slap a sticking plaster over the regulations by restricting benefits to migrants.

INCIDENTALLY, does anyone remember Ted Heath mentioning a borderless continent when he lured us into the Common Market all those years ago? Was it ever explained to the voters by Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher, Major, Blair, Brown or Cameron? The Libs, Labs and Cons are heading for a right old kicking from Ukup in next year's EU elections.

IN A blitz on cycle safety, 600 officers were stationed at 60 dangerous junctions in London this week. Clearly, they were not all experts on bicycles and the law. Ben Watson was carrying his two little girls in a CargoBike which looks like a cross between a bike and a wheelbarrow when one officer inquired: "Is that bike legal?"

BUT then the law is now so complex that no Pc can be expected to know it all. In an idle moment this week, dreaming of next year's sailing, I flicked through the Department of Transport regulations on lighting and numberplates for towing a boat trailer. War and Peace was an easier read.

IN ONE of their early sketches lampooning the City, Monty Python flashed the caption ("SATIRE!") on screen in case anyone missed the point. Which leads me on to Mary Portas, the shopping guru who has single-handedly transformed Britain's ailing high streets into stylish, dynamic centres of soaring profits ("SATIRE!").

OVER the past dozen years, in the quest to rid Afghanistan of the Taliban and create a decent society, more than 3,300 Nato troops, including 446 Brits, have been killed and thousands more maimed for life. This week it is announced that Afghanistan's justice ministry wants to introduce public stoning to death as the penalty for adultery. Makes it all worthwhile, doesn't it?

A READER recounts a chilling experience in a power cut which put out all the street and house lights. Bowling merrily down the unit pitch-black road was a vehicle showing no lights and with no road tax, driver's licence or insurance which was miraculously avoided by other vehicles - a disability scooter. These scooters in the 21st century are like handguns in the 20th century. Something will eventually be done, but only after a large number of people have been killed.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

£13m savings warning by health chiefs

SAVINGS of up to £13 million will need to be made at a hospital where there has been a surge in demand for services. The trust which runs Walsall Manor Hospital has already earmarked £11.4m savings this year and is expected to be £1.1m short of the target.

whether there will be any impact on jobs with formal proposal due to go before the board early next year. It comes after health chiefs at the Manor say they have been hit with extra demand on services which has helped contribute to record levels of expenditure on temporary workers, with £10m in six months and £2m in September alone, although steps have now been taken to address the issue.

In a report to the board of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, chief executive Richard Kirby, said: "We continue to plan for future cost improvement and are aiming to have undertaken a review of the 2014/15 programme and developed initial plans for 2015/16 which we will share with the full board in the next two to three months."

Emergency admissions have rocketed by up to 40 per cent at the Manor, with increasing numbers of patients from Staffordshire. Demand will further increase under plans to strip services from Stafford Hospital, including the maternity unit.

Objection to green belt plans removed

THE Environment Agency has removed its objection to plans for more than 140 homes on green belt land between two villages, it has emerged.

The move strengthens the case of developers, Staffordshire-based KGL Estates, whose plan to build the houses in Great Wyrley has been turned down by South Staffs District Council.

The Environment Agency had joined residents in voicing concerns over the application but has now withdrawn its opposition after reassurances over water pollution.

It is a boost to KGL Estates as it prepares an appeal to government planning inspectors over the council's decision.

They have formed a campaign group to resist the development of Landywood Lane which they say is the last piece of green space separating Great Wyrley from Cheslyn Hay.

KGL boss Ken Lees welcomed the agency's withdrawal, but said: "The fight is not over yet." He believes council bosses have seriously underestimated the number of new homes that will be needed in the village over the next 15 years.

Massive haul of drugs was 'packed to order'

FOLLOWING the discovery of one of the largest hauls ever uncovered in the West Midlands, detectives this week have said it was 'packed to order' ready for shipment.

Almost two tons of cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy was uncovered at Maybrook industrial estate in Brownhills.

The drugs, worth up to £30 million, were being unloaded when a 30-strong police squad struck. It was one of the largest seizures ever made by West Midlands Police and included 120 1lb bags of cannabis, five 1kg bricks of cocaine and 50 1kg bags of MDMA, which is also known as ecstasy.

Detective Sergeant Carl Russell, from Force CID, today said the impact of the discovery could not be underestimated in terms of the impact it would have on drug dealing in the region and the UK as a whole.

He said: "This is the largest seizure of drugs I have secured in my 24-year career with West Midlands Police. It is also one of the largest in the force's history."

"The drugs had almost certainly been packed to order ready for shipping within Britain but possibly even further afield. Our operation will have a national effect and we are working closely with a range of law enforcement agencies to identify those involved."

The drugs were wrapped in protective foam chips and

by Lisa O'Brien

packed in layers in six large cardboard boxes measuring up to five by four feet.

They were stored on five freight pallets and wrapped in thick plastic bags taped closed with the cannabis vacuum-packed to stifle its tell-tale smell.

DS Russell said the drugs were incredibly harmful and could be cut with potentially deadly chemicals.

He added: "The labs where they are made are highly dangerous environments which put neighbours at risk and those behind drug crime are almost always involved in gun crime, people trafficking and exploitation."

The operation resulted in two men, aged 50 and 53, from Brownhills, being arrested on suspicion of supplying a controlled drug along with a 51-year-old man from Norton in Stoke-on-Trent. They have been released on conditional police bail pending further inquiries.

The raid took place at around 5pm on Wednesday.

For video footage and more pictures, visit www.expressandstar.com

House roof blitzed

A FIRE caused by an electrical fault ripped through a house roof. Crews from Aldridge, Walsall and Bloxwich were called to the fire at the property in Salters Road in Walsall Wood. On arrival, they found the roof well alight and there was a danger the fire could spread.

But crews managed to restrict the blaze the roof area, before putting it out and leaving more than four hours later. A man and woman at the home were outside the property when firefighters arrived at 10.30pm on Saturday. Aldridge Fire Station Watch Commander Steve Palmer said: "The roof is severely damaged, but the important thing is the fire did not spread."

Randy's metre-feast success



Speed-eater Randy Santel takes on the monster hot dog containing 1.5kg of sausage

IT CONTAINED 1.5kg of beef sausage, 2lbs of home-made chilli and was topped with Monterey Jack cheese and jalapenos, wrapped in a bread roll.

More than 100 competitors have taken on the metre-long monster hot dog challenge at Smokey's restaurant in Walsall and failed.

But it proved to be no match for American TV star and well-known speed eater Randy Santel, aged 27, who is taking on a range of

food challenges on a 44-day tour of the UK. He had just an hour to eat the monster hot dog, which came with a side of fries and coleslaw, but finished in 46 minutes and 29 seconds. Dozens of people gathered at the Station Street restaurant to cheer him on as he took on the hot dog challenge on Sunday.

Also taking it on were Steve Forrester, 38, of Well Lane, Blakenall, and Alex Mason, 24, of Wythall, but the pair were unsuccessful.

Time to check on the elderly

HEALTH chiefs are urging residents to check on their elderly neighbours as temperatures plummet.

Bosses in Walsall say people who are already vulnerable because of their age, existing illness or disability severe cold snaps are at the highest risk.

Councillor Zahid Ali, portfolio holder for Public Health and Protection with Walsall Council, said: "I'm asking people to make sure they check on their neighbours and relatives this winter to check they are coping. Perhaps families can make up an extra hot meal for a vulnerable neighbour, or offer to do their shopping. For others, they may appreciate some company as cold snaps often mean people are unable to venture out for days at a time."

Centre dance

A SEQUENCE and ballroom dance will be held at Aldridge Community Centre, Middlemore Lane, from 8pm on Saturday.

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Chiefs in call on flu jab along with tips

HEALTH chiefs in Walsall are urging people in high-risk groups to have their flu jab and tap into financial support available to make their homes more energy efficient this winter.

A list of tips on how to stay healthy and warm this winter have been drawn up by Walsall Council and are aimed at residents over 60, low income families and disabled people.

Councillor Zahid Ali, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for public health and protection, is urging people to make sure their heating is set between 18 and 21 degrees centigrade, wrap up warm and have regular hot drinks and meals.

Councillor Ali, who chairs Walsall's health and wellbeing board, added: "Poor weather conditions mean that some residents may not be able to get out and about and this is where we can all play our part in helping them get through the winter."

"I'm asking people to make sure they check on their neighbours and relatives this winter to check they are coping."

"It is also worth people checking they are claiming all the benefits they may be entitled to as this may help with bills."

Association joins with food bank

A HOUSING association has teamed up with a food bank to help crisis-hit people in the run-up to Christmas.

Caldmoreaccord, based in Caldmore Green and Darlaston, is working with the Black Country Foodbank to provide support to its most vulnerable customers, including people struggling with debt and unemployment.

The organisation, which has homes in Sandwell, Walsall, Dudley and Wolverhampton, will help residents to look at how they can maximise their income, offer them support in getting into work and refer those with drug or alcohol problems to specialist services.

In addition, the most vulnerable will be given a voucher for a food parcel which can be exchanged for three-day's worth of food from the Black Country Foodbank. Call 0300 111 7000 for more details.

Dementia diagnosis is one of lowest in UK

WALSALL is one of two areas of the West Midlands to have been named and shamed as being among the worst 10 parts of the country for the diagnosis of dementia.

In Walsall, diagnosis is as low as 37.2 per cent while the Stafford figure is even worse at just 36.4 per cent, this compares to some parts of the country where diagnosis rates are above 70 per cent.

The figures were released as it was revealed that fewer than half of people suffering from dementia are being formally diagnosed because doctors fear stigmatising their patients, according to the Health Secretary.

Jeremy Hunt's 'dementia map' of England showed that in some areas, fewer than four in every 10 dementia sufferers have their condition recognised by the NHS.

The disclosure comes as the Government begins a campaign to boost diagnosis rates, which will include Britain leading a Group of Eight conference on the issue next month. The Department of Health estimates that 670,000 people in England are suffering from dementia.

However, only 319,000 have been diagnosed, NHS figures show. Overall, 48 per cent of the estimated dementia cases are being formally recognised by the NHS.

In some areas, the diagnosis rate is as high as 75 per cent. But in the worst performing areas, it falls to 39 per cent.

Mr Hunt said he was disclosing the diagnosis rates in an effort to drive up standards and end what campaigners have called a postcode lottery in the treatment of dementia sufferers.

Challenges

The World Health Organisation estimates that the number of people worldwide living with dementia could more than treble to 115.4 million by 2050 due to the ageing population.

The figure is expected to pass the million mark in the UK alone by the end of 2020, Mr Hunt said. "Dementia is one of the biggest challenges we face as a nation."

"This report and map will help drive up standards of dementia care across the country by showing what excellent care looks like, and challenging the rest to become like the best."

But shadow minister for care and older people Liz Kendall said: "If David Cameron was serious about improving the quality of dementia care, he would not have cut council budgets for older people's social care to the bone."

Ben carries on after staring death in the face at just 22

by Deborah Hardiman

"IT BRINGS home a sense of your own mortality when a friend dies in your arms."

He is just 22. But as a member of the Armed Forces serving Queen and country, Ben Jones has stared death straight in the face more than once.

Driven at by a suicide bomber and coming under fire from a Taliban marksman, the senior aircraftman reveals his story of life on the front line in Afghanistan.

Ben, of II Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment, recently completed his final tour of duty after suffering serious leg injuries on active service in Helmand Province.

He suffered a broken left thigh, dislocated knee and torn tendons during an attack near Camp Bastion on September 30.

Ben, who grew up in Willenhall, recalled how he was part of a foot patrol among a group of 14 personnel when the attacker, who was killed instantly in the blast, struck. He says he was among four servicemen to be injured. "We had received a radio message to stop a suspicious car which had been spotted in the area," he says.

Detonated

"Within seconds it came careering round the corner. We started to draw our weapons and to flag down the driver to stop, but he didn't. He just drove at straight at us and detonated the car, which was converted into an improvised explosive device - in effect a bomb on wheels."

"He was five metres in front of us. I was injured by the flying metal and debris. There was nothing left of the driver and only a small piece of metal remained of the white car afterwards."

"The lads with me sent for Apache helicopters which came and provided aerial protection and cover until the American medical team arrived on the scene to treat us. Planes were flown in to take us back to camp. "I was taken to the operating theatre straight away to remove the bits of metal from my leg."

After five days at the camp hospital he was flown to Selly Oak Hospital, in Birmingham, where he stayed for four days at its specialist unit for injured military personnel.

He now wears a leg brace to aid rehabilitation and visits RAF Cosford weekly for physiotherapy. But this was not the first brush



Senior Aircraftman (SAC) Ben Jones, aged 22, of II Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment, back home with his dog Alfie

with death for the former St Thomas More RC School pupil, who grew up in Hobley Street, Sheppell Green.

While on his first tour of Afghanistan in February 2012 the aircraftman saw his good friend SAC Ryan Tomlin, aged 21, of Hertfordshire, shot dead by a Taliban marksman right in front of him.

"They had been protecting a foot patrol in Dashte in central Helmand when they came under fire."

"Ryan got shot in the head. I was just behind him," he recalls. "He died in my

arms, but it all happened so quickly he didn't suffer. I was quite shaken up for quite a bit afterwards. It does bring home to you a sense of your own mortality. We stood in a guard of honour as his coffin draped in the Union Flag was put on a plane to be flown home."

But, despite facing death and suffering heartache since he joined up in 2010, he says he is proud to have served his country. "I'm glad I went to Afghanistan," he says. "I'm proud to have served Queen and country, but it's also been a great career move. It's

been a life-changing experience for me." Ben, who now lives in Cannock, tied the knot with wife Grace, a disability and mental health nurse also 22, while on a rest and recuperation on August 8, but had to return to duty four days later.

The couple are now due to go on a belated honeymoon to Lapland.

He is also due to take voluntary early release from the military in the new year and is looking forward to a fresh start. He is setting up a new handyman business, Green Tips Gardening.

NEWS in brief

Streets' speed to be cut in scheme

SPEED limits will be reduced on a string of streets after more than 60 people were injured within a year, under new plans.

Walsall Council is looking to introduce 20mph zones in five neighbourhoods in a bid to boost safety and cut collisions.

Areas in Aldridge, Rushall, Streety and Willenhall have been earmarked by highway chiefs as part of the £25,000 scheme.

The 20mph zones are planned for the Summer Hayes estate and around the Sandringham Avenue area in Willenhall.

Also included in the proposals are the Brookhouse estate around Greaves Avenue, Park Hall, in Pheasey surrounding Wimperis Way and Barns Lane, Rushall.

Tributes paid to sportsman Bert

TRIBUTES have poured in for a well-known sportsman who died recently. Bert Chambers, whose twin sons James and Adam play for Walsall FC, passed away recently.

He would regularly attend matches and was also known for being chairman of Bronze Cricket Club on the border of Walsall and Sandwell.

Tributes have been paid on the Saddlers supporters' website, [upthe saddlers.com](http://www.saddlers.com), and from others who knew him over the years.

Fred Gleason, of Moxley People's Centre, said: "I can honestly say Bert was one of the most genuine and sincere men I have known." Players wore black armbands for Walsall's subsequent game at Crawley Town.

Event to recall lost loved ones

A HOSPICE is inviting people to remember the lives of loved ones they have lost at a service in Aldridge.

The outdoor service has been organised by St Giles Hospice at Aldridge Shopping Centre on December 7 at 4pm. It is part of the charity's annual Light up a Life campaign.

Lights on memorial Christmas trees will be switched on during the service, while a special Light up a Life book of memories will also be on display.

Visit www.stgileshospice.com/lightupalife or call 01543 432538 for more information.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS



BORIS Johnson says tackling inequality is futile because 16 per cent of the population have an IQ of below 85, meaning they will never be able to compete on equal terms in the labour market with the two per cent who possess an IQ of 130 or more.

Which is fair enough in theory, but I wonder if it always works that way in reality.

Suppose, for argument's sake that one of the 16 per cent with an IQ of less than 85 is born into the sort of background Boris comes from. Finest prep school money can buy, top public school from the age of 13, and then there's always the option of a bit of private tuition should those pesky O-levels and A-levels get a bit tickly.

Then, at the other end of the scale, there is one of the two per cent possessing an IQ of 130 or more, who goes to a 'bog-stan'ard comprehensive on a sink estate. 'Sadly, he doesn't pick up much from his mixed-ability classes because Mr Chips is rather preoccupied with stopping little Keanu from setting fire to little Johnnie's hair.

Which of those two youngsters would you say has the best life chance? Quite.

But he is right that the best way to address this unfairness is to invest in schools which give bright kids from deprived backgrounds a chance to compete on a level playing field with those who are privately educated.

Perhaps we could call them, I dunno, grammar schools or something?

HOW sad to hear about the death of Lewis Collins, better known as Bodie in The Professionals, at the age of just 67.

It also reminds us of a time when there were just three television channels, but a vast array of programmes you might actually want to watch.

During the late 1970s you could switch on almost any night of the week and watch a fast-paced, British-made action drama. The Sweeney, Minder, Van Der Valk, Shoe-string, Target - all right, maybe not Target - all pulled in millions of viewers.

The stories may have been far-fetched, the effects a bit rough and ready, but who cares? The scripts were spot on, and that's all that really matters.

Now we have dozens of TV channels, and prime-time viewing seems to consist primarily of tone-deaf singers, minor celebrities trying to dance, and a bloke in the jungle who can't tell the time. And they call it progress.

Contact Mark on Twitter: MAndrews_Star



With fellow firefighter Jim McParland in Tanzania



Rudy with Mia, aged two, who he helped rescue in Haiti



Alongside other volunteers in Siret, Romania

Rescuer Rudy bows out from an amazing career

LISA WRIGHT talks to firefighter Rudy Parkes who has retired after a long career helping out communities at home and abroad

FROM digging a child out from the rubble of her collapsed nursery in earthquake-hit Haiti, to fighting one of the West Midlands' biggest fires earlier this year, Rudy Parkes has had a remarkable career.

As a member of West Midlands Fire Service he has tackled countless house fires, car crashes and was even on shift on the night of the 1985 Lansdown riots and the Chinese lantern blaze in Smethwick this year.

But now after three decades of service Rudy has retired.

Investigate

During his career the veteran firefighter, who ended his service as watch commander at Cradley Heath, and is married to Clare, 40, and father to 10-year-old William, has not only saved lives in the Midlands, but also spent more than 20 years visiting some of the poorest parts of the world to help build schools and community facilities.

He has led more than 50 trips to Romania and six to Tanzania. This was alongside his firefighter duties and his role in the International Search and Rescue squad which has included working in earthquake-hit Japan and Haiti.

And it was in Haiti in 2010 that he was part of a team that carried out his most memorable rescue.

"We were actually searching a supermarket, there were about 40 of us rescuers and it was around lunchtime.



Rudy receiving his MBE with wife Clare and son William in May of 2012

"A young lad came running up to me and grabbed hold of my arm," said Rudy, who now lives in Wollaston, Stourbridge.

"Me and [fellow rescuer] Dean Harris said we would go and investigate. We walked down the road, about

500 yards, and there was a school that had collapsed. As soon as I got onto the rubble I could hear a little girl crying 'Mummy'."

That little girl was two-year-old Mia, and fellow West Midlands colleagues, as well as those from Wales and Man-

chester, rushed to help. Mia had been trapped under a concrete slab beneath the rubble for three days and three nights, and crews used their bare hands to free the toddler.

Rudy added: "As she came out, her little face was dirty. She went straight to her mother.

"It was quite tense at the time because what you do is you focus.

"You have got a job to do and you have to stay focused and each person in that team was part of that rescue, it was probably the best one I've been involved in."

Rudy's fundraising efforts have ranged from flying to Ecuador in February 2009 to raise money for the Bobby Moore Fund cancer charity - of which Rudy is project manager - with Express & Star columnist Carl Chinn and his colleague Andy Grosvenor, to a 120-mile canoe trip down the River Severn to raise money for an orphanage in Tanzania.

Remote

He has also helped to construct a physiotherapy unit at the Salvation Army's Matumi orphanage in Dar Es Salaam.

Other exploits have included helping to build an extension to a school in Alto Paraíso, a remote village in Brazil, in 2010.

In March the next year, he also joined the ISAR squad helping to find the survivors of the earthquake in Japan.

The 53-year-old received an MBE from the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace in May 2012 for his charity work at home and abroad.

As his career drew to a close Rudy was also one of the 200 firefighters who attended the huge fire at Jayplas recycling plant in Smethwick in July, sparked by a Chinese lantern that floated onto the site.

He said: "I've loved every minute, I've got no regrets and I've loved going to work every day and every night."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...
A SCHOOL held a uniform amnesty to tackle an energy crisis. Codsall High School headmaster Geoffrey Bate told his 1,000 pupils they could wear whatever they wanted to keep warm after a strike by oilmen forced the school to turn its heating system off.

A DEJECTED Father Christmas was facing up to the prospect of unemployment after his decision to open a grotto in Dudley ran into trouble. Santa, alias Dennis Edwards, had been hoping to set up his grotto at Enterprise Shopping Mall in King Street, but discovered Dudley Council was also planning to lay on its own 'Space Santa' grotto.

WEST Indies cricket star George Headley died aged 74. The batsmen, who also spent three years at Dudley Cricket Club, notched up 2,190 runs in 22 Tests.

1993...
CONFIDENCE in political leaders appeared to have fallen to an all-time low, if a charity auction in the West Midlands was anything to go by. Signed photographs of Prime Minister John Major and Labour leader John Smith fetched just £5 each at the auction in Great Barr - while a jar of pickled onions was judged eight times as valuable, fetching £40.

PATIENTS awaiting major surgery were having their operations cancelled because Chinese flu victims were were swamping hospital beds. The intensive care units at both the Royal and New Cross Hospitals in Wolverhampton were full.

TERRY Cooper quit as manager of Birmingham City, just 18 months after guiding them to promotion. Cooper, who had got Blues out of the old Third Division, decided to leave St Andrews after coming under fire from fans at a 3-0 defeat against Tranmere.

2003...
A PETROL station in Wolverhampton became the first in the world to install a new anti-theft system which would puncture the tyres of any drivers attempting to make off without paying for their fuel. The 'stinger' was the brainchild of Oldbury inventor Jaginder Singh Mudhar. It had been installed at the BP garage in Stubbs Road, Penn Fields.

TELEVISION debating show Question Time was broadcast from Wolverhampton Civic Hall. Panellists included Constitutional Affairs Secretary Lord Falconer and former Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke.

PAUL Gascoigne's time at Molineux was over after just six weeks, after he admitted he wasn't capable of playing Premiership football.

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LETTERS

Horror story of horses being confiscated

THE horrific story of the blatant confiscation of Mr Hall's horses, including the death of two horses at the hands of Walsall Council, has now gained international media attention.

As a British citizen residing in the United States, I question when my country turned into a police state?

When did council members receive the right to infringe on the rights of citizens who pay their wages?

Mr Hall cannot get the two deceased

horses back. It is a moral obligation that all of his living horses should be returned, unharmed, without further delay.

It is also an obligation that the pasture where he has kept his horses, for over three decades, be returned to him without further delay.

Mr Hall should be allowed to purchase it at a fair and reasonable price, and I suspect the Walsall Council can subtract that amount from the monies they owe Mr

Half in damages. I have always taken pride in my country and my countrymen. But I hang my head in shame at what these council members and their law enforcement henchmen have done.

I would like to direct this letter to every single one who was involved: You are public servants. Nothing more, nothing less. All of those around you pay your wages. You work for them.

DE AUCHMOEDY-BUNDY
Alto, New Mexico

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Moving plea to keep Ring & Ride service

I WAS greatly moved to receive a letter from Mrs AW, a 94-year-old lady from Walsall Wood, who has asked me to do my best to keep the Ring and Ride service.

She said 'a lot of us cannot get to the bus stop as it takes us ages to walk with our walkers... the Ring & Ride service is a godsend to old people like me.'

It would be nice to say that there is nothing to worry about, but the bleak reality is that the West Midlands district council leaders, like councils across the land, are faced with unprecedented cuts in funding from the coalition Government.

The best that can be hoped for is a radically reduced level of Ring and Ride service. The basic problem is that, whereas pensioners' bus passes are protected by law and have to be funded, until such time as the law is changed, the same does not apply to accessible transport services such as West Midlands Ring and Ride.

For many of the least mobile, frail and elderly, it is their only means of mobility, the thing that ensures they can get out and about, and not be housebound, lonely and sad.

This is not a matter of concern for those hard-hearted, out-of-touch ministers, who have taken recession as the golden opportunity to do what they always dreamed of.

I appeal to everyone who cares to join me in a campaign to limit the impending damage to West Midlands Ring and Ride. There is very little time to get organised.

I would ask people who want to show support, both Ring and Ride users and the wider public, to contact me in the first instance. Email: richardworrall@yahoo.com, Tel: 01922 641084 or write to me at 46 Winn House, Burrowes Street, Walsall WS2 8NW

R WORRALL, Walsall Pensioners' Convention

Jaguar is best Vehicle is too car for Mayor ostentatious

WITH reference to J Field's letter regarding the mayor of Walsall's Jaguar, what on earth is wrong with the man?

Although he does suggest alternative uses for the cash earmarked for this necessity, what is the alternative - a taxi? That would quite probably cost the ratepayer around £6,000 per year. The Jaguar will have to last for the next 10, which on average brings down the cost to around £5,000 per year.

The Jaguar is a locally built, world class automobile.

May I suggest that every ratepayer in the borough congratulate the council in its wisdom of selecting a locally produced product for all to admire. I am a pensioner and have one vice - my secondhand Jaguar, covering almost 137,500 miles without any major problem.

E HOBBS, Streetly

LIKE J Field, I also read with incredulity about the cost of the Walsall Council mayoral car.

Accepting that the mayor should have a car to fulfil his duties, I feel that in these days of cuts and job losses a less ostentatious vehicle, perhaps carrying a sponsorship logo might be more fitting. Councillor Mike Bird has defended the purchase of the mayoral car, but him apart, I have not heard or read a single word from any other of our elected representatives.

I tell a lie, two of our Bloxwich councillors have appeared in print expressing their disgust because Network Rail changed Bloxwich to Bloxwith on a temporary diversion sign. And they wonder why turnout is so low at local council elections.

G WILSON, Bloxwich

No justification for £1.75m spending on moving stalls

ONCE again your headlines announce a large expenditure by Walsall Council. This time on repositioning the market stalls. How can it justify spending £1.75 million? First it was the art gallery, then the council house car park and the mayor's car.

Councillor Mike Bird states that the mayor's car is the tool of his trade, the same way that a bricklayer's tool is his trowel, well a bricklayer buys his trowel - so can we expect the mayor to buy his car? Councillor Bird is also disappointed fellow councillors do not understand the difference between capital and revenue expenditure. To me revenue expenditure means redundancies, while capital expenditure means spending money on non-essential projects in times of austerity.

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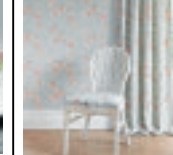


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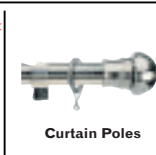


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NEWS

Tram users' new service set to free up estate roads

TRAM commuters will get a new park and ride service at a station to ease the car-clogged streets of the estate it serves.

The move will see a parking area built close to Bradley Lane Metro Stop in Moxley.

It is the only part of the track that runs between Wolverhampton and Birmingham Snow Hill to cross into Walsall borough.

Now, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, Centro and Walsall Council are looking to carry out a feasibility study to prepare for the project.

Campaigner and Darlaston South representative Councillor Doug James said: "A parcel of land adjacent to the stop has been identified as a park and ride site and I will be working with colleagues from Centro and Walsall Council to ensure local residents are consulted over the forthcoming proposals."

He said the development will promote the Metro, improve public transport links to the Darlaston and Moxley areas and help resolve issues with commuters parking outside homes in the area.

"It will link people to the job opportunities along the

by Alex Homer

Birmingham to Wolverhampton Metro corridor.

"Bradley Lane Metro Stop is the only stop on the line which is actually in Walsall and links our communities.

"We have had issues with anti-social parking and this scheme will help," Councillor James added.

Easier

Centro spokesman Peter Cameron said: "The stop is very popular with passengers and the facility would make it much easier for those wishing to drive their cars to the stop before taking the Metro to their destination.

"We have identified a potential site off Great Bridge Road which would be able to provide free parking spaces for passengers.

"It is still early days and we are currently working closely with the council."

Goldie scales heights of fish campaigning



Goldie poses with his fish for the Fishlove campaign

PEOPLE know him as Goldie - but after this picture he may soon be known as Goldie-fish. The drum and bass musician has stripped off for a new charity campaign.

The Walsall-born musician, actor and artist is one of a clutch of stars to pose naked with fish to highlight how stocks are falling in open water. It has led to a call for a ban on deep sea fishing, which activists claim is leaving some species on the brink of extinction. Goldie, who grew up in the Heath Town area of Wolverhampton, uses the fish to protect his modesty as he stares into the camera.

The 48-year-old was joined by X Files actress Gillian Anderson, fashion designer Kenzo Takada and French-Portuguese actress Barbara Cabrita, who also stripped off and posed with various species of fish for the Fishlove campaign.

Express & Star mna media thechronicle



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NEWS

Spending in pipeline for shops boost

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds will be invested into developing land and sprucing up run-down shops under new three-year regeneration plans.

Walsall Council is looking to allocate funds in a bid to boost jobs and encourage business into the town.

The proposals to continue regeneration in the borough come despite the cash-strapped authority needing to save £19m in the next financial year.

Around £200,000 a year is being set aside by the council for carrying out work which will assist developments in Walsall. In the first year it is being covered by underspend in the capital programme for 2013/14. Another £120,000 a year is earmarked for shop maintenance up to the 2016/17 financial period.

A report to the council states the additional funding will help generate jobs. "This project relates to the use of capital funding to create a

by David Banner

stimulus for regeneration activity and encourage the private sector with particular emphasis on creating employment opportunities and stimulating housing renewal. This may involve for example, undertaking site investigations, obtaining outline planning consent, and undertaking reclamation or demolition work."

Despite the need to make savings the authority is looking to make investment, including getting cash from external sources, for the likes of improvements at the New Art Gallery, better allotments and new permanent market.

Sing-a-long time Alan



Alan Phillips, aged 93, who is still singing with Sheffield Male Voice Choir with other members Derek Pugh, Tim Briggs, Andy Chantler, and conductor Andrew Webb

HE HAS been belting out hymns, popular tunes and songs from musicals for more than 25 years and has performed at the Royal Albert Hall on several occasions.

At the grand old age of 93, bass singer Alan Phillips is the oldest member of Sheffield Male Voice Choir, which was established more than 40 years ago and has performed shows across the country. The great grandfather-of-one, of Hall Lane, Pelsall, joined the choir in 1987 and has helped to raise thousands of pounds for causes including Help for Heroes, prostate and breast cancer charities.

The former British Rail worker, who was Pelsall's station master for a decade from 1948, is now encouraging more youngsters to join the choir to keep it going. Mr Phillips was also a chorister at Lichfield Cathedral in the 1930s. Anyone interested in joining can call Andrew Chantler on 07870 783614 or Andrew Webb on 07854 591189. Visit www.sheffieldmvc.org.uk



Alan back in 1946

Jane's trip to Poundland

ACTRESS and baker Jane Asher took a trip out to Birmingham for the opening of Poundland's 500th store. The middle-class icon has joined forces with the £1-for-everything chain to launch a new range of bakeware early next year in the Willenhall-based firm's first-ever celebrity tie-in.

It underlines the chain's growing attraction to the so-called 'squeezed middle' as better-off families have joined the queues at budget stores in the pursuit of a good deal.

Last Thursday, Asher was signing autographs as Poundland opened its 500th store in Corporation Street.

In addition to our normal menu, we will be offering these additional festive treats

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- Vietnamese Noodle Salad
- Avocado, Feta & Slow Roasted Tomato Salad
- Middle Eastern Hummus with fried Tortilla Bread
- Tuna Salad with Green Beans
- Asparagus, Bean and Pine Nut Salad



Starters

- Pigs in Blankets
- Vegetable Samosa
- Chilli Garlic Prawns
- Thai Chicken Wings with a Sticky Honey Dressing
- Tandoori Lamb mince skewers
- French Onion Soup



Mains

- Traditional Roast Turkey with trimmings
- Singapore Style Fried Rice
- Roast Butternut Squash or Pumpkin
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- Sahi Paneer Korma
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NEWS

Felt-tip pen titled DVDs man caught

£2k boost from choir



IT WAS hardly a sophisticated set-up, with Hollywood film titles scrawled on discs in felt-tip pen being sold out of a suitcase in front of hundreds of shoppers.

Michael Haigh's enterprise was soon rumbled by police – and he is now awaiting sentence after admitting selling the counterfeit goods.

Police seized 816 fake DVDs after the 31-year-old was caught at Jerome Retail Park in Bridgeman Street, Walsall, on January 20.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Haigh, of Providence Lane, Leamore, Walsall, had attempted to flee the scene when spotted by police but was arrested.

Haigh was represented at the hearing by Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, who told the court: "These DVDs were plainly illegitimate and being sold for a small amount of money."

He requested that the case be adjourned for a pre-sentence report to be prepared.

Haigh is due to be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on December 23 and was remanded in custody.

By Simon Stone

"The titles of some of the releases were written in felt tip pen."

The court heard he pleaded guilty on the basis that he had been asked by an acquaintance to sell the DVDs.

Haigh was represented at the hearing by Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, who told the court: "These DVDs were plainly illegitimate and being sold for a small amount of money."

He requested that the case be adjourned for a pre-sentence report to be prepared.

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Packaging

Mr O'Gorman said: "He was set up, standing outside Poundstretcher, selling counterfeit DVDs from a suitcase. Police seized 816 DVDs."

"They were all well known and very recent releases such as Lincoln and Life of Pi. The packaging wasn't particularly good."

Clothing shop signs deal

A CLOTHING shop has signed an exclusive deal with a new design label. Life of dad, which took over an empty unit in the Victorian Arcade in Walsall earlier this year, signed the deal with Applaud The Underdog, a range created by 28-year-old Birmingham designer Josh Harvey. All the garments are hand-printed in the UK.

Willenhall Musical Society treasurer Anne Langley, joint care manager Susan Husband, musical director Justine Clarke, chairman Pam Proffitt, and secretary Dorothy Copson

AN AMATEUR musical group held its annual concert fundraising for the West Midlands' Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre. Founded in 1941, the Willenhall Musical Society has held a charity concert for the past 20 years.

The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre was chosen as the designated charity because it is based in Wolverhampton and a member of the group suffered with MS before she sadly died. The concert at Pool Hayes School in Willenhall attracted more than 200 people. A raffle, refreshments and admission all helped to raise £2,000 for the charity in Tettenhall. Tom Eldiss, aged 18, and Grace Robinson, 16, both from Walsall, entertained with hits by Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck.

When not raising money for charity the group holds rehearsals each week at 7.30pm on a Monday evening at Portobello Methodist Church in Willenhall, and is always on the lookout for new members. To get involved call 01902 680827 or visit www.willenhallmusicalsociety.co.uk

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Love is sharing smiles, a second chance of romance and two . . .



Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
(60C108353)

LOVE is a second chance of romance, embracing life and sharing smiles – lots of them. For retired couple Gillian and John, sharing time together, enjoying holidays, meals out and trips to the theatre, life has opened an unexpected new chapter of happiness after they both lost their partners.

Their laughter is infectious and their zest for life inspirational. The widow and widower, both young 70-somethings, met at a mutual friend's golden wedding party and the rest, as they say, is history.

But John didn't only discover a new soul mate, he also found a new patient for dentist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS (Eng).

Principal of the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley, Steven says: "They're such refreshing company and I am thrilled they are so happy together.

"But I'm also pleased we were able to resolve a long-standing lower denture problem for Gillian as well as create a lovely warm smile for her that suits her personality."

John recalls he was first to attend the Denture Clinic after spending nearly four years "perusing stories in the papers" about Steven's work.

Like many denture wearers he had encountered stabilisation problems with his lower denture as gums receded with the normal ageing process. "I knew I had to get something done because when I was driving my lower teeth could bounce up and down," says John.

Crunchy salads

Steven referred him to dental implantologist Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the dentist has long-standing professional relationship.

"I decided to go for an implant-retained over-denture which clips on to two fixings. I would never let anything stop me from enjoying a meal out before I had the implants, but things are great now. I can have steak, eat crunchy salads and feel free to have anything off the menu," he says.

Gillian had endured a similar stabilisation problem for two years and was persuaded by John to see Steven because her dentures "were always loose."

Again an implant-retained over-denture was prescribed and Mr Pugh also rebuilt Gillian's upper front teeth with crowns. The results are obvious: Natural looking, functional teeth and an engaging smile.

"Previous dental treatment could never resolve my problems. If I ate out I'd have to order soft options , but I put up with it," says Gillian.

"We laugh a lot, smile a lot and enjoy life. This is my 'me' time," she adds.

And what of their experience at the Denture Clinic? "Steven is like family to us," says John.

Steven added: "By using implant retained over-dentures we can guarantee to resolve stability issues. We prescribe and produce our dentures on the premises and it means I can be fastidious about quality."

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NEWS

Ban for 'skipping' claim Wolves fan, 32

HE CLAIMED to have been 'skipping along' the street after a Wolves match.

But football fan Paul Gregory has now been banned from attending games after being spotted trying to provoke Walsall supporters after a crunch match. The 32-year-old shouted at rival fans while walking down the middle of a road with his arms outstretched after Wolves' Johnstone's Paint Tro-phy clash with Walsall at Molineux on September 3, a court heard.

He was convicted after trial of a public order offence of using threatening behaviour with intent to cause fear of or provoke unlawful violence. But Mr Sundip Murria, defending at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court, that Gregory had merely been 'skipping' along and doing what football fans do. Police spotted father-of-two Gregory, of Auden Court in Perton, among a group of around 40 Wolves supporters on St Patrick's Ring Road at around 10pm

by Simon Stone
after the game which Wolves won on penalties. He was arrested five minutes later on Lichfield Street. A police officer's statement read out in court by Mr Murria said: "He was what can only be described as skipping in an excited sideways motion down the road with his arms raised and was shouting at the top of his voice."

Mr Roger Bleazard, prosecuting, said: "Walsall fans were becoming agitated because of his behaviour."

Gregory was given a three-year football banning order, prohibiting him from attending any regulated matches during that period and ordering him to hand over his passport to police during certain overseas games. He also received a community order with a requirement that he undergo 12 months' supervision. Magistrates further ordered him to pay £200 costs and a £60 victim surcharge.



Match ban - Wolves fan Paul Gregory

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Sacked worker cleared by jury

A CARE worker who was sacked after two colleagues reported him to bosses for allegedly ill-treating patients at a home has been cleared by a jury of any wrongdoing.

Michael Sedgwick told Stafford Crown Court that he believed the complaints were made because he had applied for a senior post at the Alma Court residential centre, and colleagues wanted to taint his name.

One of his former colleagues, Sarah Hawkins, alleged Sedgwick had punched 86-year-old dementia patient Jabez Edwards in the chest, causing him to fall backwards into his chair. Sedgwick also denied Sarah Hannay's report that he had grabbed 81-year-old Dennis Mayner round the throat and forced him backwards onto the toilet.

Sedgwick, aged 21, of Formby Way, Turnberry Estate, Bloxwich, was found not guilty of two separate charges of ill-treatment of a person lacking mental capacity.

The jury's verdicts were unanimous and the defendant was discharged. He has left care work and has no intention of returning to it. He now works in a warehouse.

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NEWS

Chiefs ditch proposal to cut price of school food

PLANS to cut the price of school meals by reducing the range of options available have been thrown out by council chiefs.

Original proposals to reduce the cost to £1 per meal were scrapped earlier this year - but the idea was revived last week after it was suggested that menus could be slashed.

by Simon Stone

But council chiefs have now rejected the plans and admitted that prices will remain at £1.90. They say the authority cannot afford to spend any money on the scheme while it faces £19m of cuts. A pilot scheme was set to be launched in the coming months to gauge the level of support. The most recent figures collected show 86 per cent of pupils eligible for free school meals were taking up the offer.

A report detailing the recommendations has stated the extra cost to the council by offering the discount would be 'impossible'.

"Figures presented to scrutiny estimated the cost of a wholly free service to be approximately £12m per annum and the £1 per meal service being in the region of £8m," it reads.

Chris Holliday, head of leisure and community health at Walsall Council, said: "It is worth noting

during the recent national school meals week some schools did agree to serve meals to their children for £1 to encourage youngsters to try a hot dinner. It is also worth noting from September 2014 all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be offered a free lunchtime meal in line with the Government's announcement earlier this year."

Councillor Gareth Illman-Walker, a member of the school catering working group set up to look at plans for the future, says he is 'disappointed' by the decision to scrap £1 meals.

"I think it increases the burden on parents in terms of family finances," he said.

"Part of the recommendations were to increase the number of children having school meals in line with other authorities, but now this is just another disincentive for children to have hot meals during the day."

Right chord for cause



Musicians Becky Pickin and Andy Miles show their CD to David Chambers, centre, chairman of Brierley Hill Samaritans

FROM drums to the keyboard and the guitar to the violin - there is no need for a backing band for one music-loving couple, who have released their first album using only the sounds they have created.

Becky Pickin and Andy Miles, who play 10 instruments between them, have launched the album Minnewater under their name Grande Valise to raise money for the Samaritans branch in Brierley Hill.

Mr Miles, aged 30, from Willenhall, works as an assistant at Wolverhampton Library.

The album was inspired by 1960s pop and indie as well as the couple's many visits to Belgium. So far, they have sold about 70 albums, raising more than £500 for charity, with 150 still available at grandevalise.co.uk.

Miss Pickin, aged 31, from Pensnett, chose the Samaritans after noticing the work they do while working for Dudley Council for Voluntary Service.

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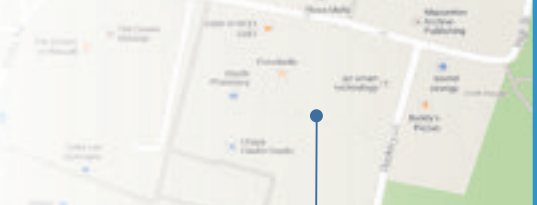
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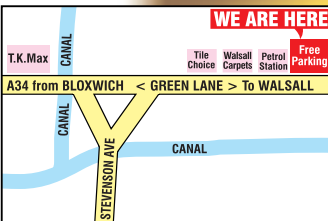
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NEWS

£900 handed over from poppy event

A CHARITY run and walk raised £900 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The Aldridge Poppy Run and Walk was held at Aldridge Airport, in Bosty Lane, and Hay Head Wood on October 26.

Around 85 people took part in a five-mile run or four-mile walk and the funds raised were handed over to the Aldridge branch of the Royal British Legion last week by event organiser Karen Waple.

Mrs Waple, chairwoman of Aldridge Running Club, said: "This was the second year for the event and we will be holding it again next year. It was really well received this year. We had 85 runners and walkers and around 20 members of Aldridge Running Club took part."

The 56-year-old, of Knights Hill, Aldridge, added: "I decided to set up the event after taking part in the Somme run in France for their Poppy Appeal about three years ago. I wanted to do one in Aldridge."



Event organiser Karen Waple with Harry Fry from the Royal British Legion

Lock-up for teen thief caught raiding home

A TEENAGER who was caught burgling a family home by the homeowners has been locked up for 20 months.

The victims arrived home to see the shadows of people in their home, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, told the court that the couple had returned to their home in Ashmore Park at about 8pm on October 24.

"They noticed that the upstairs bedroom lights were on in the house and two heads could be seen in the upstairs bedrooms," he said. The court heard that Mrs Phillips shouted to her

husband that someone was in the house. Mr Dann said: "He shouted 'Get out of my house', and the two men ran out of the rear of the house."

Police found 19-year-old Shane Wellington and his accomplice, who cannot be named for legal reasons, lying on the ground nearby.

The court heard that three rings were recovered from Wellington, and both were arrested. Wellington admitted the burglary straight away, while his accomplice initially denied the crime. Mr Dann said that as well as the rings which were worth about £3,000 a games console worth £250 and a camcorder worth £60 were taken. An untidy search of the house had been made, a patio door had been broken and some crockery smashed.

The court heard that Wellington had pleaded guilty to burglary. His accomplice, a youth, had already been locked up for the offence in a young offenders institution.

Wellington, of Remington Road, Walsall, has three previous convictions for burglary. Mr Christopher Gorman, defending, said Wellington's criminal behaviour was due to a drug addiction. He said the jewellery was returned. Wellington was sentenced to 20 months in a young offenders institution and ordered to pay a £100 victim surcharge.



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NEWS

Dragon fired up by creative students

STUDENTS from Walsall College have showcased their skills in front of thousands of people and impressed former Dragons' Den tycoon Theo Paphitis at the same time.

Visitors to the three-day national Skills Show, which saw more than 100,000 people flock to Birmingham's NEC, were invited to learn about what makes Walsall College 'outstanding' and put their creative mark on the college's careers-themed chalkboard.

Hundreds of primary and secondary school pupils, along with parents, helped to transform the wall mural into a colourful masterpiece with a host of careers mentioned including hairdressers, engineers and fashion designers.

Vocational

Signmaking apprentices, and photography and graphic design students used their photography and digital print talents to wrap a Range Rover car and were left delighted when Mr Paphitis dropped by to have his photograph taken.

A range of activities were also showcased on the college's feature stand in the further education village to give visitors an insight into some of the skills they could gain by following a vocational route at Walsall College.

Construction students gave demonstrations on the various trades required in house building.

Walsall College's marketing communications manager Russell Williams said: "Our students demonstrated why this college is rated outstanding by Ofsted and even impressed Theo Paphitis with their skills developed in the workplace."



Walsall College students Hannah Little and Joe Till and apprentice Sam Harris with TV celebrity and millionaire businessman Theo Paphitis

Fundraising on a Grand scale

A FUNDRAISER who climbed into the depths of the Grand Canyon has raised more than £1,000 for Walsall's St Giles Hospice.

Michele Ibbs, of Westeroft, near Wolverhampton, trekked for 26 miles alongside sheer drops and in temperatures exceeding 100F to raise money.

The 50-year-old completed the challenge in 42 hours while carrying all her supplies. The expedition saw her

descend 5,850 feet into the depths of the Grand Canyon along the North Kaibab Trail, cross the Colorado River and then trek 4,460 feet up the Bright Angel Trail to the finish point.

Ms Ibbs, who was joined on the hike by pals Iain Whyte and Ian Edwards, raised £1,070 for the hospice. She said: "It feels incredible to have finally accomplished this goal and to have raised valuable funds for St Giles."

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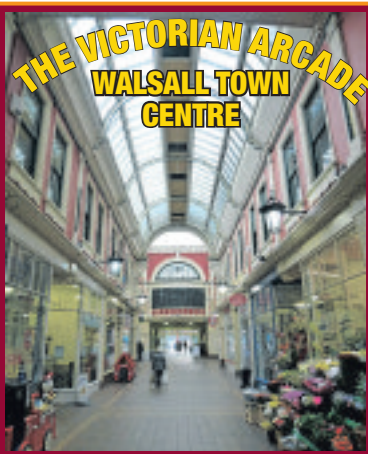
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CLUB NEWS

Markets visit very enjoyable

SHARESHILL WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beddard welcomed everyone, especially two new members Jessica and Karen, to our Christmas Craft evening.

Since we last met a number of our members had a very good time at the group meeting hosted by Hayes Green WI and more recently, some went to Markets Day at Stafford where Derek Herbert regaled us with ukulele music and stories about the life of George Formby. In the afternoon local Stafford lad Mike Dilger of The One Show fame told us tales of his adventures in South American rain forests and his life as a TV presenter.

This year we have decided not to send each other Christmas cards but instead give the money we would normally spend to a local charity so we will have a Donation Box for the Air Ambulance Fund at our December meeting for your contributions.

A couple of reminders: Anyone who has decorations for our tree at the Church Tree Festival is asked to please bring them to Church on Saturday December 7, 10am onwards. The Group Carol Service is at St John's Church, Heath Hayes on Monday December 9 at 7pm.

The next meeting will be our Christmas Party for members only when we would like you to bring prizes for our bumper raffle and also please don't forget a present (value £2) for Santa's Sack.

A lovely time out to see Knutsford

A VERY enjoyable trip to Knutsford, Cheshire, took place on October 28. Knutsford is a small town within the 'Golden Triangle' where footballers and 'Corrie' stars have their homes - no empty shops there then!

Three members of the South Staffordshire Federation attended the meeting on November 21 and at the end of the formal proceedings successfully used their persuasive powers to find new Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman ready to take up office in March 2014, thus ensuring the continuation of Pelsall Guild.

Treasurer, Anne Blount, presented seven members with the recently initiated 10-year service badge.

Payment and menu choices for the Christmas Dinner at Barons Court Hotel, Walsall Wood, on December 12 were collected, and the evening concluded with a game of Bingo. A trip



The seven recipients of the 10 year service badge. Back row: Denise Blair, Irene Williams, Val Chalker, Jo Smith, Janet Hough. Seated: Val Walker, Irene Middleton

PELSALL E

to Trentham Gardens is being arranged for Monday December 16. Further details can be obtained from Pat Heeley on 01922 684845.

The next meeting is on December 19, the annual Christmas Buffet where everyone brings a contribu-

tion to the festive table. Money in lieu of cards will be donated to a local charity.

Subject to weather conditions our small walking group continues to meet each Wednesday at 10am outside Pelsall Community Centre, Station Road, Pelsall, and usually includes a coffee break.

Dinner guests are welcomed

PRESIDENT Parkash welcomed 147 guests to celebrate the 77th Annual Dinner on November 15 at Linden House, Tettenhall Road.

Guests included His Worship the Mayor and Mayorress, Edna Schafer-Hughes President of SI Midland Chase Region, Emma Reynolds MP, Paul Uppal MP and Mike Colley President of Wolverhampton Rotary. Following an

W'TON SOROPTOMISTS

excellent meal, President Parkash welcomed the wide variety of guests both locally and from all over the country and thanked the Mayor; two of the Wolverhampton M.P.'s Paul Uppal and Emma Reynolds and others for their support.

The evening's entertainment with sparkling per-

formances by actress and international singer Chloe Jean "CJ", who performed songs from the shows and personal favourites; and Sukh intricately played his guitar and performed his own compositions.

At the end of the evening, flowers were given to Presidents of SI clubs representing many parts of the region and beyond and to our special guests. For details please see www.sigbi.org

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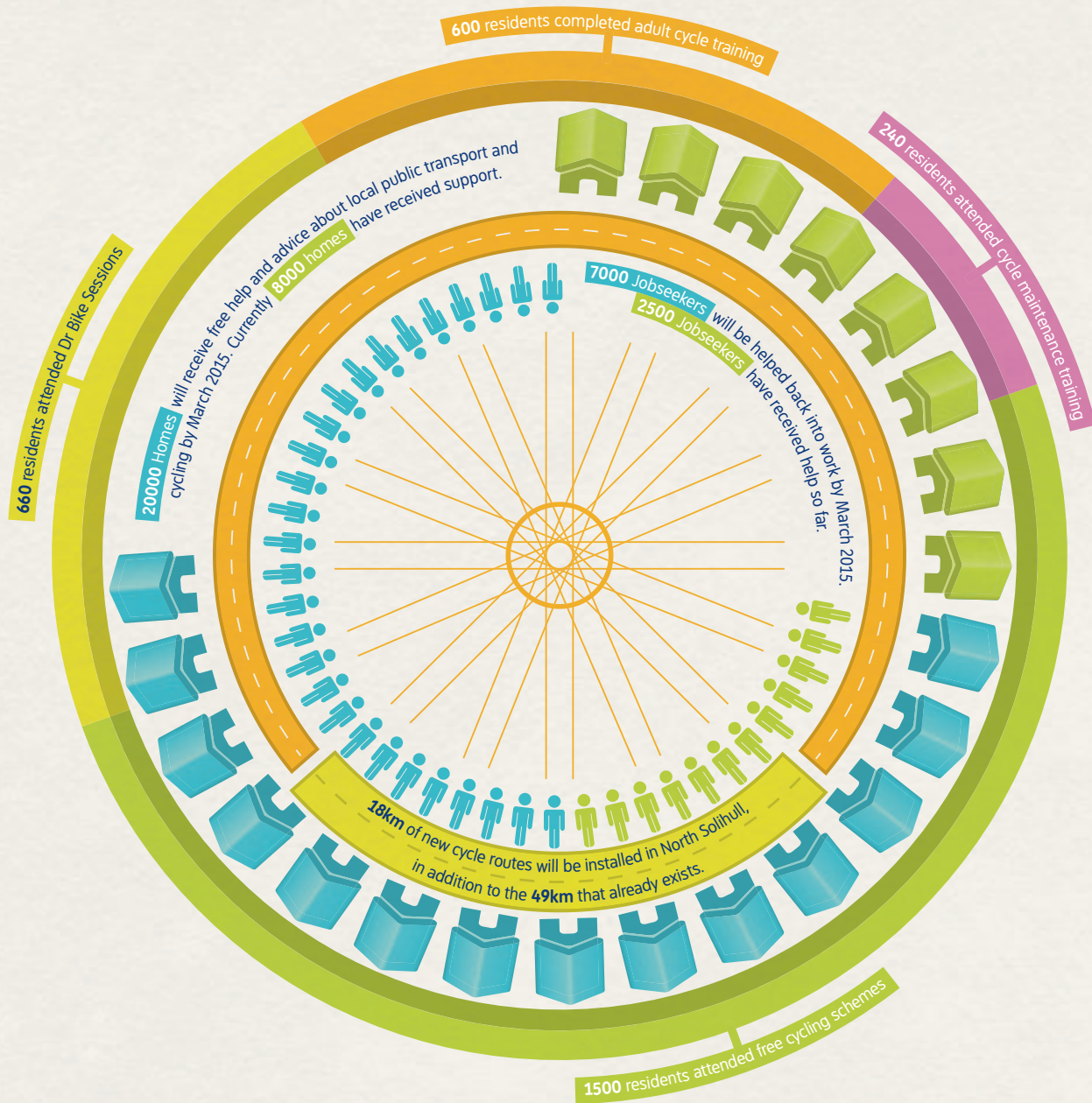
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FOCUS ON WILLENHALL

Tea's up at new venue following £37,000 opening

IT HAS only been open for 12 weeks, but a new village tea room has proved so popular that organisers are already planning an expansion.

More than 80 people visit the venue at the Essington Community Centre every day, according to parish council chairman David Cliff. Now redecoration work has begun inside an adjoining room, which is due to open soon after Christmas, housing another six tables.

The tea room on Hobnock Road in Essington, near Willenhall, is designed to be a meeting place for residents and can seat 30 people at any one time.

Councillor Cliff said: "It is just great that people are coming in here for conversation. It gets them out of the house."

The tea room opened in September at a cost of £37,000. The parish council received a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery in July to help fund it.

Schools are placed in special measures

TWO schools in Walsall have been deemed 'inadequate' and placed in special measures by education watchdog Ofsted. Willenhall E-ACT Academy and St Francis Catholic Primary School, in Shelfield, have been told they must improve following recent inspections.

Inspectors said teaching was 'inadequate' and students' progress was 'too slow' at the Willenhall school. An inspection at the Shelfield school found 'wide gaps' in attainment.

£6k appeal boost

THE Sikh community in Walsall and Willenhall have donated £6,350 to the Children in Need appeal. The money was raised during a series of events, including charity car washes, a sponsored fundraising walk from Walsall's Caldmore Gurdwara to Wolverhampton and a special hymn service.

Showdown on post office plan will take place with councillors

Brother of boy who died hits out at jobs

HEARTLESS thieves stole ornaments and destroyed flowers left at a graveside in Willenhall.

Retired lorry driver Michael Birch has been tending his brother Brian's grave at Short Heath Holy Trinity Church in Willenhall three days a week for 60 years.

Mr Birch, now 64, was just four when he started looking after the memorial.

Brian died aged 14 months after his intestines became wrapped around each other.

Doctors removed his appendix suspecting appendicitis but he died 12 hours after the operation.

Repainting

When Mr Birch, of Coalmeadow Close, Bloxwich, visited his grave earlier this week, he discovered flowers he had laid down just days earlier had been pulled apart and ornaments had been stolen.

He said: "I don't like graves to be forgotten about and so for as long as I can remember, I have been visiting my brother's and washing and repainting his headstone and putting fresh flowers on it."

"This week it was the 60th anniversary of his death and so as usual, I went to visit his grave, but when I got there I was so upset to see the heads from flowers had been pulled off and the pots they were in had been taken."

West Midlands Police spokesman



Michael Birch, next to his brother's grave at Holy Trinity Church, Willenhall

Lee Page said: "Police are investigating after items including flowers were stolen from a graveyard at Holy Trinity Church on Church Road in Willenhall."

"It was reported to police on Tuesday afternoon and is being

treated as theft.

"The local neighbourhood policing team has increased passing patrols at the location. Anyone who sees anything suspicious is urged to contact police on 101."

A POST office boss is set to meet councillors to explain controversial plans to close a branch in Willenhall and move the facilities into a shop.

Willenhall Post Office is one of 70 Crown Post Office branches, or those run directly by the Post Office, earmarked to be franchised. Bosses insisted a decision had not yet been made but confirmed a consultation would be held once detailed plans are revealed.

Richard Lynds, senior stakeholder manager for Post Office Ltd, has agreed to arrange a meeting with councillors to discuss the issue.

A motion in opposition to the closure was previously backed by the council.

The motion, submitted by Councillor Tim Oliver, said: "Council wishes to place on record its opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail and the threat to the 'six day, one price goes anywhere' delivery."

"We believe that these proposals will lead to higher prices and a worse service for Walsall residents. In particular, council opposes proposals to franchise and/or close the Crown Post Office currently located in Willenhall."

"The downgrade of the status of Willenhall Crown Post Office by attempting to franchise it into another retail business will lead to an inferior customer service and will have a negative impact on the local economy."

A response on behalf of Mr Lynds says: "The options are still at consultation stage, with the Post Office remaining positive about the office remaining in the area, and see the key changes as being focused around improvements to the services, rather than creating a negative impact. "He is very happy to attend any



Willenhall Post Office

meeting to answer any questions from members, if this provides a helpful solution and to include the council in the consultation process moving forward."

Members of the public will be given six weeks to have a say on the plans when they are announced early next year.

Councillor Sean Coughlan, who has opposed the plans, said: "I hope that the Crown Post Office service will listen to what Walsall councillors are saying."

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NEWS

20th high note for Phil



Phil Palmer, aged 60, who has notched up 20 years since his music shop opened in Ashmore Park, near Willenhall

HE already holds the record for playing the longest clarinet note in the world. And now Phil Palmer is celebrating another milestone after the music shop he runs in Ashmore Park, turned 20 years old.

Mr Palmer, of New Invention, runs Musicland in Griffiths Drive, which sells instruments and offers music lessons for keyboard players and guitarists, among a host of others. The 60-year-old former paratrooper began his love of music when he was bought an instrument aged 13. And his shop has gone from strength to strength.

Some of Mr Palmer's pupils have been with him for more than a decade, with one keyboard student still having lessons after 17 years. "It was either the clarinet or a violin," Mr Palmer said of his musical debut many years ago. "After two years of asking my mum she finally bought me one."

Mr Palmer set his clarinet note record of one minute 13 seconds at Coppice Performing Arts School back in 2006.

Delight for traders with shops boost for villagers

TRADERS have welcomed improvements to a shopping parade which has received a £250,000 investment to spruce up the market square and car park.

The 35 stores have now all been snapped up at Anchor Parade in Aldridge. London & Cambridge Properties own the parade and ploughed a quarter of a million pounds into the site with extra investment planned in the future.

by David Banner

Furniture store Village Interiors is the final business to have secured a three-year lease on a 1,530 sq ft retail unit at after relocating from the high street.

Anchor Parade has a range of well-known names including Boots, Home Bargains and Iceland, alongside independent retailers. Free parking is provided in the centre's own rooftop car park. There are also plans to refurbish the public toilets.

Lisa Rudd, owner of Village Interiors, said: "We have already seen a significant increase in footfall and sales since moving from the high street to the parade.

"We have a great spot opposite Boots and there are always plenty of people around. With Christmas on its way we are looking forward to a busy few months ahead, especially as a result of the programme of festivities planned for Saturday, which includes an ice rink in the square." London & Cambridge Properties' retail asset manager Jo Salmon said: "£250,000 has been spent on improving car parking and upgrading the central square - an investment which is really paying dividends."

Student union in award

A COLLEGE student union has beaten universities from across the country to scoop an award for its work to promote environmental issues.

Walsall College's student union has been presented with a Green Gown Award 2013 after beating universities in Worcester, Nottingham, Durham, Gloucestershire, Brighton and Anglia Ruskin in the student and staff engagement category. The college has been honoured for initiatives including creating a wildlife garden and organising events and competitions.



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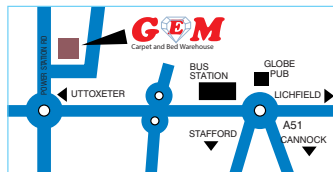
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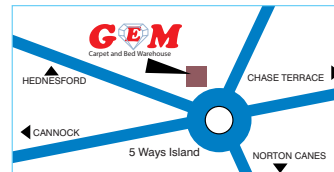
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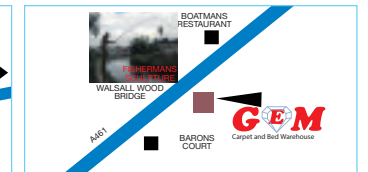
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NEWS

Wheelie big challenge



TWO friends are getting on their bike to get in training from a 100km bike ride which takes place in London next May. Tracy Harvey and Heather Roberts held a fundraising event last week at The Bell and Bottle pub in Mount Street, Hednesford, to boost funds for the event. Mother-of-two Tracy, aged 35, met childminder Heather, 39, at the Sky Ride in Chasewater, near Brownhills in September and they decided to take on a bigger challenge. The women are raising money for research to be done into ovarian, breast and cervical cancer.

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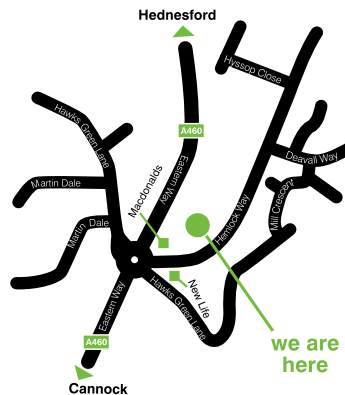


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Village call on parking near school

RESIDENTS are being urged to name and shame parents who park illegally outside a village school by posting a photograph of their car on Facebook.

Parish councillors argue poor parking outside St John's Primary School in Essington is putting lives in danger.

Councillor David Cliff said it was a 'last resort' to shame people into parking appropriately.

Councillor Cliff has already been inundated with photographs from residents who have taken pictures of poorly-parked cars. He has then posted the images on his Facebook page and forwarded them onto Staffordshire Police.

The Hobnook Road school has already sent letters to parents, approached motorists directly and the police have even issued warnings to poorly parked motorists, but still they park illegally.

The school has also organised a walking bus to encourage families to walk to school, but all their efforts have failed. Cars have already been photographed park on pavements, in front of driveways and on yellow lines.

Councillor Cliff said as a



St John's Primary School

result adults and children are being forced to walk on the road, they are having to walk between cars and parents with pushchairs and are struggling to get past vehicles which are parked poorly.

He said: "Unfortunately it is a case of laziness. Parents do not want to park that little bit further away. We have asked parents repeatedly to be mindful of where they park, but the message does not seem to be getting through."

Business lecturer goes after 27 years

A POPULAR lecturer has waved a fond farewell to her charges after almost three decades helping students reach their goals. Walsall College business and professional tutor Linda Rose has retired after 27 years service.

A total of six principals have come and gone during her time there.

The lecturer, who has also served as a college governor, has mainly been responsible for teaching at Level 1 and 2 and helping students who may have under-achieved at secondary school.

"My big reward has been to see the large numbers of these students who progress to higher levels at college and then go on to University and then take up important positions in the Walsall business community. "As I was born in the Walsall area I am passionate about the role of the college in the local area," she said. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers.



Linda Rose

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What's On!

Singer-songwriter breaks the mould



Sunjay Brayne – live album Sunjay Brayne, One Night Only

TO PUT out a live album you either have to be very big or very good. Sunjay Brayne, from Brierley Hill, is in the early stages of his career so that rules the first option out. Fortunately, he scores on the latter – he is that good.

The album made up of two sessions at the Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford, captures Brayne's smooth voice and reproduces faithfully his dexterous talent with guitar.

Brayne breaks the mould in a lot of ways. He is a clean-cut Anglo-Asian, his mother comes from New Delhi and his father from the Midlands, and he has added a touch of blue to the Black Country. From opening track, Love You Like A Man, you will either be stomping your feet or you really don't get the blues at all. For someone who is only 20 his confidence on stage is impressive.

The album is available for £12. See www.sunjaybrayne.com

DANNY FARRAGHER

Festive classic to melt hearts of all who say bah, humbug!

It's Peace in our time

EXCITING Worcester-shire rock band Peace return to their adopted home city of Birmingham to finish their December UK tour in triumphant fashion in front of 3,000 fans at the O2 Academy on Friday, December 13.

The quartet made one of the most thrilling debut albums of the year with *In Love* and caused a stir with their appearance on Jools Holland's *Later TV* show.

With a sound that is, according to singer Harry Koisser, "a bit 60s, a bit 80s, a bit psychedelic", the band met up at Worcester sixth form college and bonded over a shared love of Led Zeppelin.

Peace features Kidderminster-born Koisser brothers Sam and Harry plus drummer Dom Boyce and lead guitarist Doug Castle.

Support at Birmingham will come from Sheffield duo Drengé plus special guests.



CHARLES Dickens' much-loved A Christmas Carol aims to provide the perfect festive treat this Christmas at Birmingham Rep.

The new staging of the festive classic opened this week and runs until January 4 at the revamped theatre, which is now part of the impressive new Birmingham Library complex.

Family

Aimed at family audiences from aged seven upwards, the production will bring to life Dickens' heart-warming and slightly spooky tale of redemption and promises to banish all those Bah Humbugs with lashings of goodwill and Christmas cheer.

On a bleak Christmas Eve, London's meanest miser Ebenezer Scrooge is his usual grumpy self.

His only act of seasonal generosity is to offer his poor overworked clerk Bob Cratchit, Christmas day off.

But as the clock strikes midnight his world will be turned upside down as three ghosts give him visions of a happy Christmas past, a harsh present and a terrifying future.

Playing Scrooge will be

Matthew Ashforde with Guy Lewis as Bob Cratchit and Tania Mathurin as Mrs Cratchit.

The professional cast will be joined by an ensemble of local actors.

A Christmas Carol will be directed by Tessa Walker, who has directed plays for Hull Truck, Royal Exchange and Soho Theatre.

Dickens' story has been adapted by Bryony Lavery, who wrote the award-winning *Frozen* and has adapted Chekhov.

Jason Carr contributed music and lyrics, whilst the job of recreating Victorian London has gone to designer Ti Green.

More seasonal delights follow when *The Rep Stages The Snowman* from January 8 to 18.

There is an alternative at *The Rep's Door* venue where Bernadette Russell performs her own story, *366 Days of Kindness*.

In response to the 2011 riots, she committed to be kind to a stranger every single day for a year.

In a blend of drama and stand-up, Bernadette looks back via a dinner party where guests include the Dalai Lama, Aristotle and Princess Diana.

It is staged from December 17 to 21.

REVIEW

Cabaret, Grand Theatre
THE giant letters on the stage spell out *WILL KOM MEN*, quite ironic as there was one very important thing missing on the opening night of Cabaret at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre – *WILL!*

Earlier in the day Will Young had had to pull out of the performance due to illness and the announcement at the start brought a general groan from the packed theatre.

His replacement, Simon Jaymes, who took on the role of Emcee, did an admirable job but in many parts his voice simply was not strong enough.

But if there was a very good reason to 'come to the cabaret' enter Lichfield-born Siobhan Dillon as Sally Bowles.

This role was perfect for her and her voice and acting were superb.

The story revolves around an aspiring writer named Cliff Bradshaw (well played by Matt Rawley) who travelled to Berlin in search of inspiration when he met Sally Bowles at a cabaret called the Kit Kat Klub.

She moves in with him in a boarding house run by Fraulein Schneider (Lyn Paul – whose slightly weak voice at the start improved as the night went on) and her suitor, Herr Schultz (Linal Haft) a Jewish fruit-shop owner. As the Nazis grew stronger, everything was thrown into disarray.

Will returned on the Thursday night to finish the run.

Sue Attwater

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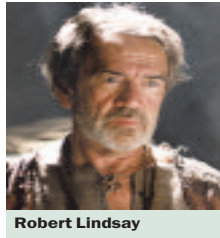
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 7.12.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Robert Lindsay

Atlantis

BBC1, 8.15pm
For those of us who grew up reading Greek myths, Medusa is a snake-haired Gorgon whose mere look can turn men to stone. But in Atlantis, she's the love of Hercules's life – and she's missing, having been kidnapped by cruel moneylender Kyros last week. Now he, Pythagoras and Jason are on her trail – and turn to genius inventor Daedalus for help: what he gives them is a sense of hope. Unfortunately, their efforts to save Medusa have to be postponed for a while after they become unwittingly embroiled in the brutal blood sport of the Scythian tribe.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** My Family Christmas Special. (R) **6.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.20** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong presents an EastEnders special, with Nitin Ganatra, Rita Simons, Peter Dean, Todd Carty, Shaun Williamson, Lucy Speed and Shona McGarty. **7.10** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the celebrities hit the dance floor once more, knowing success this week will win them a place in the semi-final. **8.15** **Atlantis.** The trio go in search of the missing Medusa, only to become caught up in a tribe's brutal blood sport – where they themselves are the prey. Robert Lindsay guest stars. **9.00** **Casualty.** Fletch has to rescue a child from danger when two brothers are involved in an accident, while Sam realises the truth about her own relationship when she restarts a patient's heart. **9.50** **The National Lottery Live.** Chris Evans reveals the results. **10.00** BBC News; Weather. **10.20** **Match of the Day.** Including highlights of the Manchester United v Newcastle United; National Lottery Update. **11.45** **The Football League Show.** **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **7.10** **Film: The Stars Look Down.** (1940) Drama, starring Michael Redgrave. **8.45** **Film: The Captive Heart.** (1946) **10.20** The Sky at Night. (R) **10.40** Reel History of Britain. (R) **11.10** The Life of Birds. (R) **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **2.15** EastEnders. **4.05** Coast. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening session of the second semi-final. **5.30** Flig It! (R) **6.30** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and his platoon are put in charge of manning an observation post on a derelict pier, but they are marooned when their boat drifts away. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: UK Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents the concluding session of the second semi-final at the Barbican Centre in York, where the final player to reach nine frames will progress to the final. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **10.00** **Ol XL.** Extended edition. Victoria Coren Mitchell, Sue Perkins and the Rev Richard Coles join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions about knights and knaves. **10.45** **Film: Artificial Intelligence.** (2001) A robot boy programmed to see his owner as a parent tries to become human, so the "mother" who rejected him will love him. Sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment and Jude Law. **1.00** **Film: Racing for Time.** (2008) Fact-based sporting drama, directed by and starring Charles S Dutton. **2.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.25** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. (R) **10.30** Murder: She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.40** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.40** Doc Martin. (R) **1.45** **Film: Babe.** (1995) **3.25** **Film: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.** (2002) **6.20** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.30** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.45** **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill discovers an illegitimate son and observes strange mating rituals. **7.15** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** With Karen Barber, Dick Strawbridge, Catherine Tyldesley and Russell Kane. **8.15** **The X Factor.** The remaining acts have been in rehearsals all week and now the time has come for them to show the voting public why they deserve a place in next week's final. **9.45** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec send another camper home. **10.45** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Jack Dee, Olivia Colman and Ellie Goulding. **11.50** **ITV News;** Weather. **12.05** FA Cup Football Highlights. **1.00** Jackpot24. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Angelsey Sandman Trillion. **7.05** The Great Ethiopian Run. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** Chris Newbold hosts the final night on the Kent coast, hoping to keep his guests entertained with his impressive motorbike collection and international menu. (R) **6.45** **Channel 4 News.** **7.15** **Film: Stephen Hawking: A Brief History of Time.** (2013) Premiere. Documentary about the renowned physicist's life and work, from his schooldays to his scientific discoveries and 50-year struggle with motor neurone disease. **9.00** **Film: Unknown.** (2011) A doctor wakes up from a coma to find another man is claiming to be him, and any evidence of his real identity has disappeared. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Diane Kruger. **11.20** **Film: Needs.** (2010) Premiere. A studious teenager in 1970s Glasgow follows in his elder brother's footsteps by joining a violent street gang. Drama, starring Conor McCarron and Gregg Forrest. **1.40** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **2.25** Holyoaks. (R) **4.35** 90210. **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.40** Sluggers. **11.05** Stobart: Trucks, Trains & Planes. (R) **12.05** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Almost Dead: Scariest Near Misses. (R) **2.00** **Film: It's Christmas.** Carol! (2012) Fantasy, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier. **3.45** **Film: Christmas Song.** (2012) Premiere. Romantic comedy, with Natasha Henstridge and Gabe Hogan. **5.35** **Film: Matchmaker Santa.** (2012) Premiere. Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. **7.10** **Film: Road to Christmas.** (2006) A woman hitch-hiking to her wedding has second thoughts after becoming attracted to a man who gives her a lift. Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. Edited for language. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **The Bible.** Joshua lays siege to the walls of Jericho, Samson is betrayed by Delilah in his battle against the Philistines and David becomes a hero after defeating Goliath. **10.55** **Film: A Perfect Christmas.** (2012) Premiere. An advertising executive meets a mannequin that has come to life, and finds it has become her perfect man. Festive fantasy, starring Claire Coffee and Ryan McPartlin. **12.35** SuperCasino. **3.05** Blackbeard's Last Stand – A Reveal. (R) **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** The Best Sport Film Ever! **7.40** Top Gear Bolivia Special **8.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Kevin Bridges – The Story Continues **11.00** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Frozen Planet **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy

ITV2
3.30 You've Been Framed! Christmas **4.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.35** **Film: Small Soldiers** (1998) **7.50** **Film: Johnny English** (2003) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** Fake Reaction

ITV3
3.40 **Film: Columbo: Etude in Black** (1972) **5.45** A Touch of Frost **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **6.30** **Film: Gorillas in the Mist** (1988)

ITV4
1.00 Live Tennis. The Staitoil Masters Tennis. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.30** **ITV Academy** **6.30** **Film: I Want That Car** **7.30** Live Tennis. The Staitoil Masters Tennis. **10.30** **Film: Scarface** (1983)

E4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** Suburgatory **7.00** **Film: New Girl** **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Rude Tube. A countdown of 50 internet video mash-ups. **10.00** The IT Crowd **11.05** The Inbetweeners

Film4
3.25 Anna and the King (1999) **6.25** Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010) **8.00** Trading Places (1983) Comedy, starring Dan Aykroyd. **11.20** Monsters (2010) Sci-fi drama, with Whitney Able.

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What's On!

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SUNDAY'S TV 8.12.13

CHOICE



Anthony McPartlin

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!

ITV, 9pm
On paper, it has to be said, this year's line-up of contestants in I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! didn't look all too impressive. But in actual fact, bosses have cleverly thrown together some of the most mismatched personalities the series has seen yet. It must all come to an end at some point though, and after three weeks, tonight sees the winner crowned. No doubt the not-so-happy campers will be looking forward to catching that plane home after umpteenth stomach-churning Bushtucker Trials and challenges.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets John Simpson. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.
6.20 **Countryfile**. The team is in Cheshire, where John Craven visits Jodrell Bank Observatory, Helen Skelton meets fantasy author Alan Garner and Jules Hudson explores the wildlife of Beeston Castle.
7.20 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as six become five, determining the line-up for next week's semi-final, and Robbie Williams performs.
8.00 **The Paradise**. French businesswoman Clemence is back in town, and finds herself at the mercy of Tom, so Moray risks everything to be rid of his rival once and for all. Last in the series.
9.00 **Britain and the Sea**. David Dimbleby sails along East Anglia's coast to explore how the sea inspired artists, transformed architecture and created a uniquely British beach culture. Last in the series.
10.00 **BBC News**: Regional News: Weather.
10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Arsenal v Everton and Fulham v Aston Villa.
11.30 **Film: The Good Shepherd**. (2006)
2.05 **Weatherview**. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40** **Film: The Mouse That Roared**. (1959)
8.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **8.30** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **11.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R)
12.00 **Live European Cross-Country Championships**. **1.55** **Live Snooker: UK Championship**. The opening session of the final at the Barbican Centre in York.
6.00 **Flog It!** Anita Manning and Adam Partridge value items including a Beswick wall mask at Sunderland's Stadium of Light, and Paul Martin visits Beamish Museum in Co Durham. (R)
7.00 **Live Snooker: UK Championship**. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the second session of the final at the Barbican Centre in York, where the first player to reach 10 frames will be crowned champion. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
11.00 **Hebburn**. Sarah is shocked when her dad turns up and reveals he has left her mother, while Gervaise is not best pleased when Vicki invites Lindsay to help him record his debut album. (R)
11.30 **Never Mind the Buzzcocks**. Rapper Dizzee Rascal hosts the comedy music quiz, with Jamie Cullum, Aston Merrygold, Foxes and Katherine Ryan joining team captains Phill Jupitus and Noel Fielding. (R)
12.00 **Film: Donkeys**. (2010) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring James Cosmo. **1.15** **Son Zone: Countryfile**. (R) **2.10** **Holby City**. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou**. **6.10** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.25** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Kicker Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** **ITV News**. **9.30** **Storage Hoarders**. (R) **10.30** **Sunday Side Up**. **11.30** **Sunday Scoop**. **12.30** **ITV News: Weather**. **1.35** **Live FA Cup Football**. **4.30** **The X Factor**. (R)
6.00 **You've Been Framed!** Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (R)
6.30 **Regional Programme**: Weather.
6.45 **ITV News: Weather**.
7.00 **Coronation Street**. Hour-long episode. Nick Telford David to leave the Street.
8.00 **The X Factor Results**. Featuring performances by Leona Lewis and Michael Bublé.
9.00 **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec follow the finalists' last 24 hours in the Australian jungle, reveal the results of the public vote and crown this year's winner. Last in the series.
10.05 **ITV News: Weather**.
10.20 **FA Cup Football Highlights**. Action from the concluding second-round fixtures.
11.05 **Film: Red Heat**. (1988) Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
1.00 **The Store**. **3.00** **Motorsport UK**. **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show**. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** Snowman Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch**. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** **Gadget Man**. (R) **3.40** **Film: City of Ember**. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan. **5.25** **Film: Home Alone**. (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin.
7.30 **Channel 4 News**.
8.00 **New Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors - Secret History**. Recent discoveries about China's Terracotta Army, an extraordinary collection of ceramic sculptures unearthed in 1974 and dating back more than 2,000 years.
9.00 **Homeland**. Brody embarks on a high-stakes mission, but his fragile condition threatens its success, while Quinn makes an uncomfortable discovery about Carrie.
10.00 **Film: Hanna**. (2011) Premiere. A teenage girl trained by her father to be an assassin travels the world on a secret mission, pursued by the CIA. Action thriller, with Saoirse Ronan.
12.05 **Fresh Meat**. Vod's mother visits the housemates, Josie and Kingsley agree to wipe the slate clean and Oregon goes on a hunt to find the only critic who gave her play a positive review. (R) **12.55** **American Football Live**. All the action from a match in the NFL, as the race to reach the end-of-season play-offs continues. **4.45** **KOTV Boxing Weekly**. Artur Szpilka v Mike Mollo. (R) **5.15** **Countdown**. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!**: Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **6.15** **Fill and the Flowertots**. (R) **6.25** **Subbie Puppies**. (R) **6.40** **The Mr Men Show**. (R) **6.50** **Chloe's Closet**. (R) **7.00** **Roobarb and Custard Too**. (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pyjamas**. (R) **7.20** **Make Way for Noddy**. (R) **7.35** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures**. (R) **7.40** **City of Friends**. (R) **7.55** **Little Princess**. (R) **8.10** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. (R) **8.25** **Angelia Ballerina**. (R) **8.40** **Rupert Bear**. (R) **8.55** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**. (R) **9.15** **Jelly Jam**. (R) **9.30** **LazyTown**. **10.00** **Power Rangers Samurai**. **10.35** **Sluggterra**. **11.00** **Inside Hollywood**. **11.05** **Cowboy Builders**. (R) **12.00** **Film: Help for Christmas**. (2012) **1.45** **Film: Dear Santa**. (2011) **3.30** **Film: The Goonies**. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin. **5.50** **Film: Pearl Harbor**. (2001) **Romantic Second World War** drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.
8.55 **5 News Weekend**.
9.00 **Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**. (1991) An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. Edited for violence and language.
12.00 **Film: Wrong Turn**. (2003) **Horror**, starring Eliza Dushku. **1.35** **SuperCasino**. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** **The Gadget Show Christmas Special**. (R) **3.55** **Wildlife SOS**. (R) **4.20** **Make It Big**. (R) **4.50** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline**. (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show**. (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **5.50** **Hana's Helpline**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **World's Craziest Fools 7.30** **Top Gear India Special** **9.00** **Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00** **Family Guy** **10.25** **The Revolution Will Be Televised** **10.55** **Family Guy** **11.15** **American Dad!**
BBC Four
7.00 **The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank** **8.00** **The Review Show** **9.00** **Les Mis at 25: Matt Lucas Dreams the Dream** **10.00** **Film: Romanics Anonymous** (2010) **11.15** **The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank**
ITV2
2.25 **Film: The Little Vampire** (2000) **4.15** **You've Been Framed at Christmas!** **5.15** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** **6.00** **The Perfect Storm** (2000) **9.00** **The Xtra Factor** **10.05** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!** **11.05** **Film: The 40 Year Old Virgin** (2005)
ITV3
2.30 **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **9.00** **Les Mis** **11.00** **Blue Murder**
ITV4
4.00 **Duck Dynasty** **5.00** **Live Tennis: The Stetool Masters Tennis**. **7.45** **World of Sport: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly** **9.00** **Gareth Bale: Welsh Galactico** **9.00** **Film: The Boat That Rocked** (2009) **11.40** **Eric Burston: Sports Life Stories**
E4
4.00 **Film: Never Been Kissed** (1999) **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.30** **Rules of Engagement** **8.00** **Film: A Knight's Tale** (2001) **10.40** **The Inbetweeners** **11.50** **The Big Bang Theory**
Film4
3.20 **The Golden Child** (1986) **5.05** **The Brady Bunch Movie** (1995) **6.50** **Mission: Impossible** (1996) **9.00** **Terminator 2: Judgment Day** (1991) **11.40** **The King of Pigs** (2011)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 11.10pm
 Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

TUESDAY
Tyrannosaur, Channel 4, 11.10pm
 An alcoholic unable to control his violent temper is struck when a charity shop worker responds to his verbal abuse with forgiveness. As they become friends, he learns she is trapped in an abusive marriage and takes her in when she runs away. However, his destructive urges continue to plague him. Drama, starring Peter Mullan, Olivia Colman, Eddie Marsan, Paul Popplewell, Ned Dennehy, Samuel Bottomley, Sally Carman and Sian Breckin. (2011)



Tyrannosaur, Tuesday, Channel 4, 11.10pm

WEDNESDAY
16 Blocks, Channel 5, 10pm
 A burned-out detective is given the task of escorting a criminal to court to testify against a group of corrupt policemen – but what seems to be a routine assignment quickly turns into a deadly game of cat and mouse as the crooked officers try to stop them reaching the courthouse alive. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Mos Def, David Morse, Jenna Stern and Casey Sander. (2006)

THURSDAY
Matchmaker Santa, Channel 5, 3.20pm
 A woman is thrilled after her boyfriend invites her to his family's lake house for Christmas, but is disappointed when he spends all his time working. She befriends his assistant, but is unaware that he is secretly in love with her until a twist of fate leaves them alone together. Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. (2012)

FRIDAY
The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, ITV, 10.35pm
 An American teenager is sent to live with his father in Tokyo after a brush with the law, but soon becomes involved in illegal street racing. When he ends up owing money to gangsters after losing a race against a driver with Yakuza connections, he has to learn to master the Japanese style of driving to win and pay back his debts. Action adventure, starring Lucas Black, Bow Wow, Nathalie Kelley, Brian Tee, Kang Sung, Leonardo Nam, Brian Goodman and Sonny Chiba. (2006)

Pick of the Week

The stars come out to shine for a good cause

As you get older, it often feels as if the years pass by more quickly.

Or, if you're a showbusiness type, then the next Royal Variety Performance seems to come around faster than ever before.

Thank goodness, then, that it always features top guests guaranteed to keep us coming back for more. Okay, so some of them can be a bit on the cheesy side, and there have been accusations in the past that the show is no longer relevant to modern audiences, but try telling that to the hundreds who see it live, and the millions who tune in to watch it on TV.

If variety happens to be the spice of your life, then this most spectacular of extravaganzas is likely to pep up a cold Monday night's viewing no end with two and a half hours of the stuff of which showbiz legends are made.

In fact, it could be said that if you're not looking forward to this year's celebrity-packed extravaganza, then there ain't no pleasing you, or that you're (snooker) loopy...

Yes, headlining the event is Chas & Dave, the 'rockney' duo who've been entertaining us with their unique brand of musical entertainment for the past 50 years. After almost two decades of silence, they returned to the album charts this year with *That's What Happens*, but we're hoping they'll be playing some of their old hits here.

It would be interesting to find out what Mary J Blige makes of them – she's also appearing, and we can't imagine that she's come across many similar acts in her native New York.

Gary Barlow, Jessie J, Olly Murs, Caro Emerald and Bryn Terfel are other musical performers on the bill, alongside comedians Jimmy Carr, Jason Byrne, Hal Cruttenden and Seann Walsh.

There are also special performances from stars of various West End musicals, current Strictly Come Dancing champion Flavia Cacace and Gareth Malone's new choir, *Voices*. And don't forget to look out for *Attraction*, the Hungarian dance troupe who won their slot on

the show by triumphing at Britain's Got Talent.

The whole event is being hosted by John Bishop, who's championing at the bit to take to the stage.

"As a child, the Royal Variety show was like the Grand National and the FA Cup final – it was something our family always watched, the only difference being that we didn't bet on the winner," says the Liverpudlian comic.

"To host a show with such heritage is something I never imagined I would do, and I trust my parents will be proud when they take their seats in the audience – although I have told my dad not to shout 'come on son!' It's not a match or a horse race!"

While the stars bask in their moment of glory, the reasons why the Royal Variety Performance exists and the charity it raises money for rarely get a mention, so let's put that right – it's the Entertainment Artists Benevolent Fund that benefits, and it deserves as much of a round of applause as the stars we'll be watching on the night.



The Royal Variety Performance 2013, Monday, ITV, 7.30pm

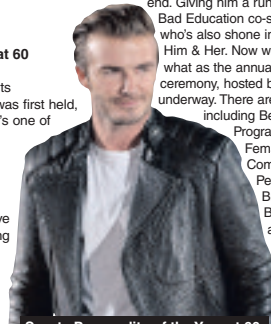
Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Fresh Meat Channel 4, 10pm
 Throughout the ages, for as long as there have been students, there have been student protests – and Manchester Medlock University is no different, for this week Oregon rallies her pals to take action when she's outraged by the deportation of a Tunisian fellow scholar. Of course, the fact that he happens to be a bit of a hunk is purely coincidental... Meanwhile, Josie has a bit of a PhD crisis, which results in her being held hostage by Sabine, and Vod has a particularly enlightening therapy session that far exceeds its bounds. And will JP ever manage to impress Sam? Not if his latest plan is anything to go by.

TUESDAY
Last Tango in Halifax BBC1, 9pm
 Celia is not the sort of woman you want to get on the wrong side of, as Judith (Ronni Ancona) finds to her cost in Sally Wainwright's ongoing comedy drama. After suffering a load of doorstep abuse, Judith realises Alan (who's on the phone in the background questioning baby Emily Jane's newly christened name) and Celia are the couple who waited 60 years to get married. Talking of which, they decide to tie the knot again so friends and family can attend the ceremony this time instead of paying a copper and butcher to sit in. Meanwhile, Caroline (Sarah Lancashire) and Kate's (Nina Sosanya) romantic weekend turns sour, and their relationship winds up on the rocks.

Heston's Great British Food Channel 4, 9pm
 Fans of the culinary alchemist have had a long wait for Heston Blumenthal's new series, but here it is at last. As you'll have gathered by the title, this new run celebrates Britain's iconic dishes. Yes, good old roast beef and Yorkshire puddings are on the menu, but what batter, er better, start than fish and chips? With a dollop of inspiration from Henry VIII's chefs, he uses truffle, Madeira gel and sea urchin to create fake fish skin that will rest on a piece of turbot. But will he succeed in his goal of creating a bite-size portion containing the best bits from any chip shop?

WEDNESDAY
Sports Personality of the Year at 60 BBC1, 9pm
 Back in 1954, when the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony was first held, under 15,000 people voted. Now it's one of the biggest events on the sporting calendar. Here, former winners Princess Anne and her daughter Zara Phillips, David Beckham, Sebastian Coe, Bradley Wiggins, Paula Radcliffe and Steve Redgrave talk about their memories of holding the trophy aloft. Gary Lineker and Sue Barker also look back at tear-jerking moments involving Muhammad Ali and Bobby Robson. Whether this year's ceremony, which takes place next week, will live as long in the



Sports Personality of the Year at 60, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

memory remains to be seen, but the show itself is sure to retain its status as a must for sports fans for many years to come.

THURSDAY
British Comedy Awards 2013 Channel 4, 9pm
 There was a time when it looked like great British sitcoms were a dying breed, but over the past year the genre has been in rude health. One of the most ubiquitous comics of recent months has been Jack Whitehall, with the double whammy of *Fresh Meat* and *Bad Education* boosting his profile no end. Giving him a run for his money has been

Bad Education co-star Sarah Solemani, who's also shone in sublime 'bedsitcom' *Him & Her*. Now we get to see who won what as the annual back-slapping ceremony, hosted by Jonathan Ross, gets underway. There are 16 categories, including Best New Comedy Programme; Best Male and Female TV Comic; Best Comedy Entertainment Personality; Best Breakthrough Talent; and Best Comedy TV Actor and Actress.

FRIDAY
Derren Brown: The Great Art Robbery Channel 4, 9pm
 We're guessing that

Derren Brown is a fan of the Thomas Crown Affair remake, because its climax bears some similarities to his latest stunt – although Derren is stealing a work of art, rather than putting it back. The idea is this: he will take a painting by Turner-nominated artists Jake and Dinos Chapman from under the nose of collector Ivan Massow. He will tell Ivan which painting he's targeting and the time of the theft, and even gives him a photo of the person who will take it. Derren has already chosen his crew, and they're not hardened career criminals – he's handpicked a bunch of pensioners instead, the type of people you might pass every day without even noticing them.

QI BBC2, 10pm
 We can't quite believe it's taken her this long, but comedy writer, performer and all-round national treasure Victoria Wood is making her QI debut. In any normal week, she'd be the undoubted star attraction, but some viewers may be more intrigued by the fact that she's being joined by another first-timer, Richard Osman. On his quiz show *Pointless*, he's usually introduced as a bottomless pit of obscure knowledge, but will he live up to his billing on QI, or will he be thrown by a quiz where the name of game is to score as many points as possible, rather than as few? Perhaps fellow panellists Jason Manford and Alan Davies can take advantage of any confusion as Stephen Fry asks the questions on this week's theme, the kitchen sink.

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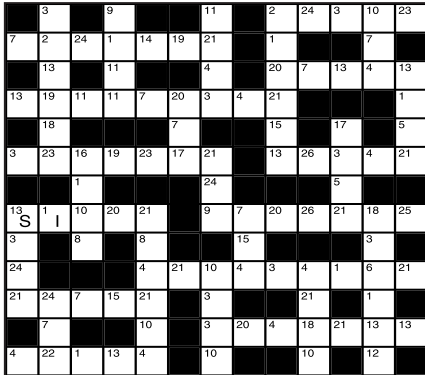
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.250

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Y	B	D	K	E	F	M	Z	S	H	J	Q	G
X	C	R	U	O	I	T	A	W	N	P	L	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

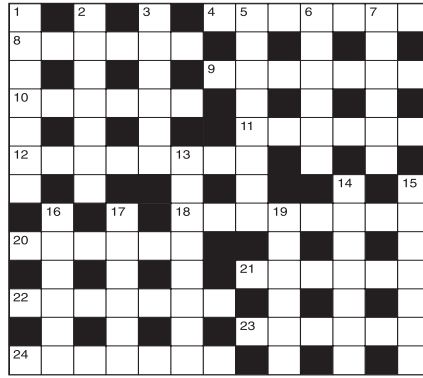
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- In a bad temper the day none came round (7)
- Writer with a point (6)
- Marked dates in wrongly (7)
- One by one on the football field (6)
- You need inspiration to draw one (6)
- The staidest form of dislike (8)
- Rambling rose that gives varied resistance (8)
- Young female accompanist (6)
- Depression that shows in your face (6)
- A breach of security (7)
- Packed as a precaution (2,4)
- Haircut that's in order (7)

Down

- Lays out feasts (7)
- Poetically upside-down (7)
- Entertainment that's a nice change to mother (6)
- A bent one needs re-shaping, don't forget! (4,4)
- Thinks of love and languishes (6)
- Puts up a secret entanglement (6)
- Not the more usual foreigner (8)
- Temporary false tooth (4-3)
- Guided a horse holding half the rein (7)
- Statesmen may wear it with a black tie (6)
- These creepers could be poisonous (6)
- Possibly tore in from the East (6)



Quick Clues:

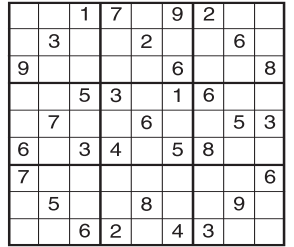
Across

- Narration (7)
- Aviator (6)
- Blow up (7)
- Shrewd (6)
- Look upon (6)
- Surround (8)
- Definite (8)
- Obvious (6)
- Nuptial (6)
- Clique (7)
- Gusto (6)
- Keep under (7)

Down

- Discussion (7)
- Shield (7)
- Subject (6)
- Meeting (8)
- Constrain (6)
- Disposition (6)
- Hypercritical (8)
- Scorn (7)
- Rich (7)
- Control (6)
- Superior (6)
- Country of the Middle East (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	3	4	1	5	8	2	7
7	5	2	8	3	6	4	9	1
8	4	1	9	2	7	6	5	3
1	9	6	7	5	8	3	4	2
4	7	8	2	6	3	5	1	9
3	2	5	1	9	4	7	6	8
5	3	9	6	8	1	2	7	4
2	8	4	5	7	9	1	3	6
6	1	7	3	4	2	9	8	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Disposition; 9 Oil; 10 Narration; 11 Replet; 13 Bengali; 14 Danish; 16 Oracle; 18 Sea-kale; 19 Payee; 20 Important; 21 Lea; 22 Head-dresses. Down: 2 Ill; 3 Panel; 4 Scribe; 5 Trainer; 6 Oligarchy; 7 Comradeship; 8 Anti-federal; 12 Pineapple; 15 Starred; 17 Repair; 19 Pates; 21 Lie. QUICK - Across: 1 Pathfinders; 9 Pot; 10 Reputable; 11 Nasty; 13 Resolve; 16 Overdo; 16 Aspire; 18 Artist; 19 Dined; 20 Entertain; 21 Con; 22 Free and easy. Down: 2 Apt; 3 Hardy; 4 Impart; 5 Delests; 6 Rebellion; 7 Opinionated; 8 Never-ending; 12 Spectator; 15 Deserve; 17 Retain; 19 Dunces; 21 Cos.



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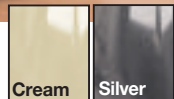
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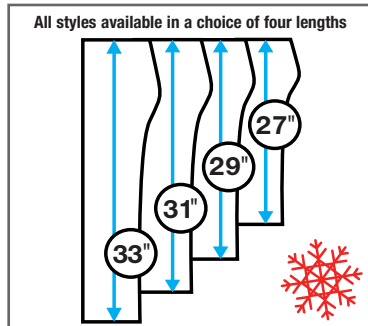


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 D6855, size 8/10
 D6856, size 12/14
 D6857, size 16/18
 D6858, size 20/22
 D6859, size 24/26

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Standard	Code	RRP	Price	Fleece	Code	RRP	Price
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Double	D6672	£44.99	£34.99	Double	D6675	£59.99	£49.99
King	D6673	£54.99	£44.99	King	D6676	£69.99	£59.99

HOTEL COLLECTION DUVETS



From £19.99 Save up to £40

Enjoy all the comfort and quality of a night in a five star hotel without leaving your home with these sumptuous Hotel Collection duvets. This deluxe bedding is non allergenic and its plush, super soft micro fibre casing and hollow fibre filling is wonderfully lightweight without compromising on comfort and warmth, making for a blissful night's sleep all year round.

Our duvets are long lasting and designed with stitched sections to retain their plumped shape and luxurious feel. Available in a choice of single, double, king or super king and offered in three levels of warmth; 10.5, 13.5 and 15 tog. A twin pack of cosy micro fibre pillows can be added to your order for £19.99. Machine washable.

Product	10.5 tog	RRP	Price	13.5 tog	RRP	Price	15 tog	RRP	Price
Single	D5752	£32.99	£19.99	D6094	£39.99	£21.99	D6098	£42.99	£24.99
Double	D5753	£42.99	£29.99	D6095	£49.99	£31.99	D6099	£54.99	£32.99
King	D5754	£54.99	£32.99	D6096	£64.99	£34.99	D6100	£69.99	£36.99
S/King	D5755	£64.99	£34.99	D6097	£74.99	£36.99	D6101	£79.99	£39.99
Pillow x 2	D5785	£29.99	£19.99						

DAYLIGHT LAMPS



From £49.99 Save up to £30

There's nothing better than natural sunlight to brighten up your home and your mood. Now thanks to our range of special daylight lamps, you can enjoy that same clean bright natural sunlight effect all year round. It's also great for hobbies such as needlework, model making and painting, helping to make colours more true to life and improving contrast.

Product	Code	RRP	Price
Daylight Table Lamp - Steel	D3943	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp - Steel	D3944	£99.99	£69.99
Daylight Table Lamp - Brass	D5553	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp - Brass	D5552	£99.99	£69.99
Spare Bulb	D3948	-	£4.99



LUXURY FEATHER MATTRESS TOPPER

From only £39.99 Save up to £40

Turn your existing mattress into a real feather bed - in an instant. This beautifully soft, 100% white duck feather mattress topper will add comfort to your existing mattress.

Wonderfully warm, it's absolute heaven to relax and sleep on. Its deep-filled 'high loft' pockets of top quality, white duck feather provide gentle, restful support and will keep you cosy through the chilliest of nights. Its 100% pure cotton cover is smooth and soft to the touch and the elastic retainer straps in each corner help to keep the topper firmly in place. To add more comfort, you can also purchase a matching feather pillow for just £9.99.



Product	Code	RRP	Price	Product	Code	RRP	Price
3" Single topper	D2307	£59.99	£39.99	5" Single topper	D6555	£79.99	£59.99
3" Double topper	D2308	£79.99	£59.99	5" Double topper	D6556	£99.99	£79.99
3" King topper	D2309	£99.99	£69.99	5" King topper	D6557	£119.99	£89.99
3" S/King topper	D5956	£109.99	£79.99				
Pillow	D2303	£12.99	£9.99				

PORTABLE DEHUMIDIFIER



From £39.99 Save up to £20

Simply place this compact 60W dehumidifier in any room affected by damp, plug in and let it do the rest. Once its 500ml capacity is reached it automatically shuts off. Just slide out the removable tank, pour away the water and replace. No mess, no fuss, no expensive refills. Mains powered. Measures 22 x 13 x 12cm. Also available is our new large capacity portable 75W dehumidifier, measuring just 34 x 22 x 17cm and boasts a 1.5 litre water tank.
D2676 60W Dehumidifier £39.99 RRP £49.99
D3812 75W Dehumidifier £49.99 RRP £69.99

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Host of period features at spacious Edwardian semi



THIS superbly appointed and spacious Edwardian semi-detached house on Lichfield Road, Rushall is packed with charm and character, having many original and restored features.

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £265,000 with two per cent of the stamp duty paid by the owner, subject to conditions.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a reception hall, cellar, storage or cloaks store, sitting room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, and downstairs WC.

On the first floor is a half and main landing with door to a front balcony, three first floor bedrooms, one with en suite, a bathroom and two second floor bedrooms. Outside there is a front garden with a block-paved driveway, side garage and a rear garden with brick built stores.

In the reception hall is a Minton tiled floor while the sitting room has a slate fireplace with tiled hearth and free standing cast iron wood burning stove and laminate flooring. The dining room has a Minster style fireplace and French doors to the garden.

The breakfast kitchen includes a Belfast sink and a five-ring gas hob and four of the bedrooms have cast iron fireplaces. For details call Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk

Refitted bathroom for a link-detached



THIS three-bedroomed modern link detached home on Ada Wrighton Close, Willenhall is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents priced £162,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, guest WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, a re-fitted bathroom, garage and rear garden.

The entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor, in the lounge is a bay window and archway into the dining room, which

in turn has a door into the conservatory. The kitchen has a gas hob and an electric oven. Bedroom one has a built-in wardrobe with a mirror sliding door and the re-fitted bathroom has a white suite with bath and shower and screen over, a wash hand basin, low flush WC, fully tiled walls and a heated towel rail.

Outside, the rear garden has decked and lawn areas. For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 212742 or visit www.skitts.net

Taylor Wimpey

Spring Walk

Spring Lane, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 4HW

2 and 3 bedroom homes from £129,995 - £179,995



Exciting new development open now!

Now Open...

Spring Walk is an exciting new development of 2 bedroom apartments and 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes in the historic town of Willenhall.

The new homes enjoy a well-connected location, ideal for commuting to Walsall and Wolverhampton, and with a great selection of homes there is plenty of choice for first time buyers, growing families or those looking to downsize.

2 & 3 bedroom homes are now on release from £129,995 with Help to Buy also available*.

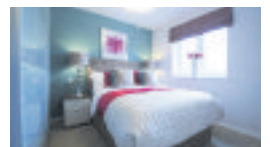
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Sales Centre open Thursday to Monday 10am to 5pm



*Terms and conditions apply and are available on our website at www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/terms or can be provided on request by your Sales Executive. *Normal Taylor Wimpey terms and conditions apply. Images used for illustrative purposes only. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offer available on selected plots and developments only. Eligible applicants will be offered an equity loan of up to a maximum of 20% of the purchase price (based on the open market value) Applicants are required to fund at least 80% of the purchase price by means of a conventional mortgage, savings and any deposit where required. For the first five years there is no fee charged on the equity loan component. At the start of year six a fee of 1.75% is payable on the equity loan, which rises annually by RPI inflation plus 1%. The equity loan is provided by the HCA and held as a second charge. Terms and conditions apply and full details will be provided on request. This offer is subject and only available on selected developments and properties in England only. It is not offered with any other promotion. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. Kitchen image shows upgraded lighting, cupboards, appliances and tiling with additional costs of £250 to £3,800.

Property



Dave's stroke of genius gains gold, silver and bronze medals

BURNTWOOD estate agent and swimmer, Dave Holland, competed in the recent National Masters Championships held in Sheffield.

Representing Chase Swimming Club based in Cheslyn Hay, Dave raced to victory in the distance races gaining first places in the gruelling 1500m and 800m events.

He also achieved medals in the 400m and 200m individual medley, 200m and 100m backstroke.

During the championships, Dave broke four West

Midland Records and three Staffordshire records.

After coming away with two golds, a silver and three bronze, Dave was understandably pleased.

"I would like to thank my coach Paul Grainger for his time and dedication towards my training," he said.

Dave works for Chariot Estates in Chase Terrace, Burntwood.

For details on latest properties visit the website at www.chariotestates.co.uk



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93 lots to include Properties On Behalf Of:



AUCTION

12th December 2013

At Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Ground

Order of Sale	Lot Description	Property Type	Lot Description	Property Type	Lot Description	Property Type		
Lot 1	Former Toilets Washwood Heath Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 32	53 Hollifast Road, Wyde Green, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 62	15 Mary Vale Road, Bourville, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 2	2 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 32a	1 Gough Avenue, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 63	Land at Hospital Lane (R/O 59B Mason Street), Coaseley	Land
Lot 3	Land Adj, 2 Berners Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Land	Lot 33	The Nesbitt Arms, Churchill Way, Stafford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 64	1 Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 4	Land Adj, 155 Wellington Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Land	Lot 34	5 Elm Court, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden	Commercial Investment	Lot 65	448 Birchfield Road, Birmingham	Commercial/Residential Investment
Lot 5	Land at junction of Witton Lane & Holte Road, Aston, Birmingham	Land	Lot 35	13 Green Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 66	280 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/Development Opportunity
Lot 6	127 Gravelly Hill North, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 36	31 Norton Crescent, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 67	15 Hallam Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 7	6 Nevin Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 37	21 Wallace Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 68	38 Nicholls Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 8	27 Elmwood Gardens, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 38	26 Florence Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 69	8A Oaktree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 9	33 Kenelm Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 39	The Red Lion, Billington Lane, Derrington, Stafford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 70	Storage Land, Leys Road Industrial Estate, Leys Road, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant
Lot 10	17-19 Gordon Road, off Heathfield Road, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 40	3 Hardon Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment	Lot 71	1 Corner of Moor Street & Albion Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Investment
Lot 11	45 Chelmarsh Avenue, Castle Croft, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 41	52A Thompson Avenue, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 72	3 Worcester Parade, Gloucester	Residential Vacant
Lot 12	25-35 Park Avenue, Hockley, Birmingham	Ground Rents	Lot 42	8-12 Cannon Hill Road, Basall Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 73	13 Little Quillet Court, Manor Avenue, Cam, Gloucestershire	Residential Vacant
Lot 13	Sandiacre, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	Ground Rents	Lot 43	182 Kingsley Avenue, Kettering, Northamptonshire	Commercial Vacant	Lot 74	73 Ardav Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 14	81 Falmouth Road, Buckland End, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 44	89 Highfield Road, Salfley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 75	Former Fire Station, Barrett Street, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/Development Opportunity
Lot 15	94 Merrivale Road, Smethwick, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 45	10 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 76	70-71 Windmill Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 16	16 Salisbury Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 46	42 Salsbury Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 77	106 Westminster Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 17	1-4 Jackson Close, Church Road, Norton Caines	Ground Rents	Lot 47	64-65 Lodgefield Road, Halesowen, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 78	15-17 Idmiston Croft, Druids Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 18	Moseley Court, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Ground Rents	Lot 48	21 Hampton Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 79	Land 7 bcy Portway Hill, Tividale, Oldbury	Land
Lot 19	61 Abbey Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire	Development/Redevelopment Opportunity	Lot 48A	135 Kent Road, Wednesbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 80	23 Holder Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 20	136 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 49	158 High Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant	Lot 81	29 Holder Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 21	Halifax House, 14-15 Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 50	5 Doveedale Avenue, Willenhall	Residential Investment	Lot 82	43 Perrywood Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 22	40 New Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 51	10 Hurton Court, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 83	Bungalow R/O 107 Edward Street, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 23	915 Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 52	32 Green Court, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 84	24 Holloway Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 24	231 Queslett Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 53	22 Ash Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 85	15 Brett Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 25	324 Deans Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 54	221 Park Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 86	28 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 26	90 Whitegates Road, Coaseley	Residential Vacant	Lot 55	Unit 2 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 87	284 Tat Bank Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 27	41 Arthur Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 56	Land Adj, 94 Grange Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Land	Lot 88	22 Netheravon Close, Druids Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 28	42 Woodbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 57	Rubery Market R/O 166-210 New Road, Rubery	Commercial Investment	Lot 89	87 Winchester Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 29	513 City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 58	53 Bowen Court, Wake Green Park, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 90	22 Bickton Close, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 30	Former Corner's Office, Crocketts Lane & High Street, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 59	106 Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 91	27 Larches Lane, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 31	41 Brynmawr Road, Laneshill, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 60	94-95 Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant			
			Lot 61	233 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant			



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46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



FOR SALE

WOOD LANE, SHORT HEATH

Four Bedroom Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Further Separate Lounge/Diner, Open Plan Kitchen/ Diner, Utility Area, Ground Floor W.C., Four Double Bedrooms With Built-In Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Generous Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£249,995

FOR SALE

THE HAYES, SUMMER HAYES

Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Property Having Entrance Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£154,995

FOR SALE

BEWLEY ROAD, WILLENHALL

Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Feature Conservatory, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links.

£149,995

FOR SALE

UPLANDS AVENUE, WILLENHALL

Two/Three Bed Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Basement/Hobby Room, Cellar, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. Must View.

£144,995

FOR SALE

CHESTER CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Extended Stylish Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Comprising Of Porch, Lounge, Spacious Modern Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden. Close To Local Schools, Transport Links And Amenities. Must View.

£136,995

FOR SALE

CEDAR ROAD, WILLENHALL

Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, Utility Area, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Brick Outbuilding, Viewings Recommended! No Chain!

£99,995

FOR SALE

DIBBLE CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Three Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C., C/Heating, D/ Glazing, Parking To The Rear. Ideal FTB Or Buy To Let.

£90,000 OIEO

FOR SALE

KEYSMITH CL, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment Comprising Of Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, And Allocated Parking. Being Close To Good Schools, Transport Links And Amenities.

£79,995

FOR SALE

LINDEN CLOSE, BENTLEY

Two Bed Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Modern Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Spacious Lounge Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Electric Heating, Secure Fenced Communal Area To The Rear, Great FTB Or BTL Investment.

£69,995

FOR SALE

GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing. Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.

£78,995

FOR SALE

REGENT ST, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Two Bed End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Cul-De-Sac Location. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY.

£82,000

FOR SALE

DEVON RD, WILLENHALL

Immaculately Presented Spacious Two Bed Ground Floor Flat Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden & Secure Parking.

£82,995

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION

Two Bed Modern First Floor Apartment Having Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Allocated Parking.

£89,995

FOR SALE

REGENT STREET, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Stylish Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. This Property Is Presented In Show Home Condition, Must Be Viewed To Fully Appreciate.

£89,995

FOR SALE

HILL ROAD, PORTOBELLO

Well Presented Three Bedroom End Town House Situated On A Corner Plot Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links.

£104,995

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GATE RD, WILLENHALL

Two Bed End Town House Having Modern Fitted Kitchen, Open Plan Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/ Glazing & Allocated Parking. Ideal FTB.

£109,995

FOR SALE

ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON

Extended Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining/Utility Area, Wet Room, C/ Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Investment. NO CHAIN.

£112,500

FOR SALE

BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL

Modern Refurbished Three Bed Three Storey Semi Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms On First Floor With A Further Bedroom To The Second Floor, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Landscaped Garden

Offers over £119,950

FOR SALE

UPLANDS ROAD, WILLENHALL

Well Presented And Deceptively Spacious Two Bed Extended Detached Bungalow With Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Spacious Lounge, D/Room, Extended Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Sunroom, D/Glazing And C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Detached Garage At The Rear.

£119,995

FOR SALE

DEVON ROAD, WILLENHALL

Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Three Bed Semi Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen/Diner With Integrated Appliances, Stylish Family Bathroom, Detached Garage/ Utility Store, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking. MUST VIEW

£119,995

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION

Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Two Bedrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Brick Bin Store, Enclosed Rear Garden And Two Allocated Parking Spaces.

£122,500

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION

Modern Three Bed Town House On The Much Sought After Squires Grove Development In New Invention Having Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

OIEO £125,000

FOR SALE

JOHNSON RD, DARLASTON

Extended Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Front And Rear Gardens With Off Road Parking.

OIEO £130,000

FOR SALE

RIDING WAY, SHORT HEATH

Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Carport, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£132,995

FOR SALE

MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON

Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Comprising Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Close To Good Local Amenities And Transport Links. Must View!

£132,995

FOR SALE

WILLENHALL RD, W'PTON

Well Presented, Modern, Three Storey Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C., Family Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Two With En-Suite, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden.

£134,995

FOR SALE

BARMOUTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Three/Four Bed Semi Detached Property Having Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Playroom/Bed Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Ground Floor Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Driveway And Enclosed Garden. Viewings Are Highly Recommended!

£139,995

FOR SALE

WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH

Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow Comprising Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Two Spacious Bedrooms, W.C., D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden. Close To Schools, Amenities And Good Transport Links. Viewings Highly Recommended.

£139,995

FOR SALE

ENSBURY CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Link Detached Property Located In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Driveway.

£142,995

FOR SALE

GLASTONBURY CRES, BLOXWICH

Fully Refurbished Four Bedroom Detached Property Comprising Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Laundry Room, Ground Floor Bedroom With En-Suite, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front, Side And Rear Gardens. Must View.

£144,995

FOR SALE

PATTENHAM CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Modern Three Storey Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms And Bathroom To First Floor, Master Bedroom With En-Suite To Second Floor, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front And Rear Gardens.

£151,995

FOR SALE

LITTLE ISLAND DR, WILLENHALL

Three Storey Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Sitting Room/ Bedroom Three, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Garage.

£153,995

FOR SALE

ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL

Five Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Integral Garage, Front & Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac Location.

£169,995

FOR SALE

ESSINGTON RD, ESSINGTON

Extended Four Bedroom Three Storey End Terraced Property Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C., Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Master With Fitted Wardrobes & Shower, Family Bathroom, Study, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Driveway. MUST VIEW

£189,995

FOR SALE

WOOD LANE CL, SHORT HEATH

Superb Three Bedroom Detached Dornier Bungalow Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Rear Garden, Garage & Driveway.

£240,000

TO LET

WOODLANDS HSE, SHORT HEATH

Two Bed Ground Floor Luxury Apartment Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Large Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Good Local Amenities, Great Transport Links And Good Local Schools. OVER 40'S ONLY NEED APPLY.

£475 PCM

TO LET

MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON

Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Enclosed Rear Storage Area, Ground Floor W.C., Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, Part Double Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Schools, Transport Links And Amenities.

£550 PCM

TO LET

STRETTON ROAD, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Property Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Enclosed Rear Storage Area, Ground Floor W.C., Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, Part Double Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Schools, Transport Links And Amenities.

£500 PCM

TO LET

BAYNTON ROAD, WILLENHALL

Recently Refurbished Three Bedroom Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating (where specified) And Integral Garage. Must View!

£575 PCM

TO LET

DILLOWAYS LN, PORTOBELLO

Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden. Viewings Are Very Highly Recommended.

£650 PCM

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MANAGER'S CHOICE



WILLENHALL
CRAB LANE

- Exceptional traditional detached on premier road
 - Drawing room ● Superb conservatory ● Dining room
 - Breakfast kitchen and utility ● Energy Rating TBC
 - Three bedrooms and loft room ● Luxury bathroom & En-suite
 - Garage and large driveway ● Extensive rear garden
- £369,950**

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



WEDNESFIELD
BIRCHFIELDS ROAD

- Impressive 1930's Semi Detached on Premier Road
 - Spacious Lounge ● Dining Room ● Superb Conservatory
 - Extended Fitted Kitchen ● Double Glazing ● Energy Rating E
 - Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating
 - Driveway ● Delightful Well Established Gardens
- £189,950**

FEATURED PROPERTY



WILLENHALL
STONEHOUSE AVENUE

- Impressive Improved Modern Style Detached Property
 - Popular Cul-De-Sac Location ● Energy Rating 'E'
 - Lounge ● Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Fitted Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
 - Garage ● Front & Rear gardens ● No Chain
- £150,000**

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NEW

COPPICE FARM
LOCHALSH GROVE

- Modern style detached
- Four bedrooms ● 2 Reception rooms
- Gas central heating ● Breakfast kitchen & downstairs wc
- Garage & off road parking ● Rear Garden
- Energy Rating 'D'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £189,995

WILLENHALL
ADA WRIGHTON CLOSE

- Superb Link Detached Property ● Popular Cul De Sac Location
- Spacious Lounge ● Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Energy Rating TBC
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£162,000

WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICE GARDENS

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property in Cul De Sac Location
- Three Bedrooms ● Gas C/Heating
- UPVC D/ Glazing ● Spacious Lounge
- Generous Flat with Rear & Side Gardens
- Downstairs wc

£140,000

WILLENHALL
BECCLES DRIVE

- Improved Modern Style Semi Detached ● Very Popular Location
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace ● Dining Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● En-suite Shower Room
- Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System

OFFERS OVER £135,000

WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed modern style town house
- Three bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Energy rating C
- Gas central heating ● Double Glazing
- Fitted dining kitchen ● Lounge
- Enclosed rear garden ● Off road parking

£129,750

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD

- Extended Traditional Semi Detached ● No Upward Chain
- Spacious Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway ● ENERGY RATING F

£109,995

SHORT HEATH
WALKERS FOLD

- Modern Mid Terrace in Popular Location
- Lounge with Dining Area ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C

£109,950

NO CHAIN

PORTOBELLO
EVANS STREET

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Refitted Dining Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom ● Gardens
- Drive ● No Chain ● Gas CH ● Double Glaz ● Energy 'D'

£105,000

NEW INVENTION
WYCHOLD CLOSE

- Modern Style End Town House ● ENERGY RATING 'D'
- Three Good Size Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom
- Lounge ● V&V Refitted Dining Kitchen/Diner
- UPVC Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System
- Enclosed Rear Garden ● Communal Parking

£102,000

NEW INVENTION
SQUIRES GROVE

- Well Presented Modern Ground Floor Apartment
- Hall ● Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Energy rating 'B'
- Garage ● Allocated Parking Space

£99,950

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
THE CRESCENT

- Period Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens ● ENERGY RATING D

£92,000

NEW

WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE

- Superbly appointed modern back to back house
- Open plan lounge and impressive refitted kitchen ● Double bedroom
- Refitted bathroom ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating ● Driveway
- Delightful rear garden with log cabin ● No chain ● Energy Rating 'C'

£89,950

WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating TBC

£82,000

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
HALEY STREET (OFF MILL LANE)

- Mid Terrace Property ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms ● En-suite WC
- Double Glazing ● Part Gas Central Heating
- Energy Rating TBC ● Driveway ● Rear Garden

£75,000

NO CHAIN

BENTLEY
POPLAR AVENUE

- Ground Floor Mosaic ● Spacious Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Large Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Energy Rating 'D' ● NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Off Road Parking ● Pleasant Rear Gardens

£70,000 offers over

WILLENHALL
CLARKES LANE

- Well Appointed Spacious First Floor Flat ● Two Double Bedrooms
- Hall with Utility ● Lounge ● Refitted Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● Communal Gardens
- Viewing Recommended ● Energy Rating 'C'

£70,000

NEW

WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICE GARDENS

- First floor maisonette in popular location ● Lounge ● Kitchen
- Double bedroom with built-in wardrobe ● Bathroom with white suite
- Double glazing ● Garage ● No chain
- Energy Rating 'F'

£55,000

WEDNESFIELD
BROAD LANE SOUTH

- Magnificent Traditional Detached Residence on Prime Road
- Impressive Corner Plot Landscaped Gardens ● Energy 'D'
- Lounge & Dining Room ● Dining Kitchen ● Utility
- Four Large Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Garage ● Extensive Driveway ● Viewing Highly Recommended

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £359,950

WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Modern detached
- 3 bedrooms ● En-suite & Bathroom
- Lounge & Dining room ● Kitchen
- Conservatory ● Gas CH
- Garage, Drive ● Gardens ● Double Glaz ● Energy 'C'

£199,950

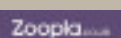
SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE

- Brand New Detached Residence
- Lounge/Dining room, Breakfast kitchen
- Four Good Size Bedrooms ● Bathroom & En-suite
- Energy TIC ● Gas Central Heating, Double glazing
- Garage, Drive ● Rear Gardens

£199,950

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**Stafford Road
BLOXWICH**

- Extended Five Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Laundry Room
- Shower Room
- Annex with Kitchen
- Lounge
- Garage & Parking
- Large Rear Garden

In the Region of £439,950



NEW

**The Green
BLOXWICH**

- Five Bedroom Detached
- Newly Built
- Lounge & Separate Sitting Room
- Open Plan Living Area
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Guest Cloakroom W.C.
- Double Glazing with Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens

Asking price £365,045



**Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH**

- Extended Four Bedroom Detached
- Immaculate Presentation
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Driveway
- Off Road Parking and Garage
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating

In the Region of £349,950



NEW

**The Green
BLOXWICH**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Newly Built
- Lounge
- Open Plan Living Area
- Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Off Road Parking

Asking price £305,495



**Field Road
BLOXWICH**

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Re-Furbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Utility Room/WC
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garages & Workshop

In the Region of £194,000



**Allens Lane
PELSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Thorough Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory
- L-Shape Extended Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating
- Driveway with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £185,000



**Woodall Street
BLOXWICH**

- 5% Deposit Paid
- Four Bedroom Detached
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Guest Cloakroom W.C.
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Gardens

Offers in excess of £185,000



**Canning Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage
- Double Glazing
- Ample Off Road Parking

In the Region of £175,000



**Green Rock Lane
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Corner Plot
- Kitchen with Large Pantry
- Verandah
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Guest W.C.
- Large Detached Garage

In the Region of £165,000



**Ravenscroft Road
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Five/Six Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Sitting/Dining Room
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Driveway
- Large Corner Plot
- Rear Garden
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £149,950



REDUCED

**Wolverhampton Road
BLOXWICH**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Large Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Rear Lobby/Utility
- Family Bathroom with Walk-In Shower
- Gardens
- Integral Garage & Driveway

Offers in excess of £149,950



**Newhome Way
BLOXWICH**

- Four Bedroom Town House
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Walk-In Wardrobe
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £145,000



**Coppice Farm Way
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Parking
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £140,000



**Coalmeadow Close
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £120,000



**Lichfield Road
WILLENHALL**

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Room
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £114,995



**Ludgate Court, Camborne Road
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen/Diner
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds & Garage
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region £110,000



**Raymond Close
WALSALL**

- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Separate W.C.
- Garage
- Driveway

In the Region of £110,000



**Coalpool Lane
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Side Room
- Large Rear Garden
- Large Driveway

In the Region of £108,500



**Cresswell Crescent
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Duplex Flat
- Extended Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Study
- Bathroom
- Separate W.C.
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating
- Front Driveway with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £99,950



**Queen Elizabeth Avenue
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Duplex Flat
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Separate W.C.
- Utility/Rear Lobby
- Roof Terrace
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £98,500



**Wolverhampton Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £90,000



**Taverners Close
WILLENHALL**

- One Bedroom House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining/Sun Room
- Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £87,950



NEW

**Blakenall Lane
BLOXWICH**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- NO CHAIN

In the Region of £85,000



**Margam Crescent
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Breakfast Room/Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Loft Room
- Conversion
- Rear Garden
- Off Street Parking

Offers in excess of £85,000



**Signal Grove
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom End Town House
- Part Furnished
- Lounge
- Family Kitchen
- Bathroom
- D.Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Front Garden
- Off Road Parking

£84,995



**Cook Road
BLOXWICH**

- CASH BUYERS ONLY
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
- Bathroom
- Separate W.C.
- Garage
- D.Glazing & Central Heating

In the Region of £80,000



**Jenner Road
WALSALL**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Front Reception Room
- Kitchen
- Rear Reception Room
- Shower Room
- Garage
- D.Glazing & Gas C.Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers in excess of £77,500



**Webster Road
WALSALL**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- Large Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating
- Ideal for First Time Buyer/Investors

In the Region of £75,000



**Livingstone Road
BLOXWICH**

- Two Bedroom Third Floor Flat
- Lounge with raised Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £64,950



NEW

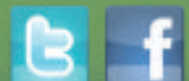
**Argyll Court
WILLENHALL**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Communal Grounds
- Secure Gated Parking
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Offers in excess of £60,000



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Thompson Street, Willenhall



EPC E

Yale Road, Willenhall



Awaiting EPC

£239,950

A four bedroom detached home with en-suite to master bedroom. Situated on the popular "Yale Road". With the added benefit of no upward chain.

Andrew Drive, Willenhall



EPC E

Birch Coppice Gardens, Willenhall



EPC E

£140,000

A three bedroom semi detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location just off the popular "Stroud Avenue". Viewing is essential.



£300,000

A stunning traditional style four bedroom, two bathroom detached home situated on the extremely sought after "Manor" development.

Tildesley Drive, Willenhall



Awaiting EPC



£175,000

A newly refurbished "Showhome Style" extended four bedroom, two bathroom semi detached home with exceptional canal views.

Bute Close, Willenhall



EPC C

£140,000

A three bedroom semi detached bungalow situated on an exceptional plot in a cul-de-sac location on the sought after Summer Hayes development.

Yale Road, Willenhall



EPC C

£160,000

A well presented three bedroom detached home situated on a popular modern development ideally located for Jct. 10 M6.



£140,000

A "Showhome Style" three bedroom end terraced home benefiting from an extensive refurbishment and a stunning conservatory.

Wolverhampton Road West, Walsall



Awaiting EPC

£140,000

A traditional style three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a popular location benefiting from good access to Jct. 10 M6.

Anson Road, Walsall



Awaiting EPC

£110,000

A three bedroom semi detached home situated moments from junction 10 M6. Presented in excellent order with re-fitted kitchen and bathroom.

Anson Road, Walsall



Awaiting EPC

£110,000

A well presented three bedroom semi detached home benefiting from a further downstairs shower room.

Bloomfield Drive, Willenhall



EPC D

£79,000

A three bedroom terraced home situated in New Invention. Benefiting from re-fitted kitchen, bathroom, driveway to the fore and downstairs WC.

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	06 Reg RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 Diesel Cabriolet New Shape, Panoramic Roof, Gold £3995		56 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC NEW SHAPE 1.6 EXPRESSION 7 Seater, Metallic Black, Very Low Mileage, FSH £4495
	06 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE TDCI 5-dr. Silver £3895		06 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 87 3dr Metallic Blue, 36,000 miles £3695

56 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC NEW SHAPE 1.6 EXPRESSION 7 Seater, Metallic Black, Very Low Mileage, FSH.....	£4495	07 CHEVROLET TACUMA SX 4-Door, Low Mileage, Nice Car.....	£2695
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56 CITROEN PICASSO XSARA DESIRE 1.6 HDI Silver, Air Condition.....	£2695	04 FORD FUSION 2.14 PETROL in Silver, Full MOT, Taxed till April 2013, Lovely car, Low Mileage, 5-door, FSH.....	£2695
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 TWINPORT Silver, 726,000 miles, Alloys, Mint Condition, FSH.....	£3995	55 KIA PICANTO 1.1 5-door, Blue, Long MOT and Tax, Cheap Tax.....	£2495
06 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE TDCI 5dr, Silver.....	£3895	05 SUZUKI WAGON R+ WT 1.3 Petrol, in Silver, Lovely Car.....	£2395
06 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 3dr Metallic Blue, 36,000 miles.....	£3695	54 KIA CERATO 1.6 Blue Metallic, Alloys.....	£1995
59/09 KIA PICANTO 1.0 5-door, Blue, 1 owner from new, FSH, £30 road tax per annum.....	£3495	08 CHEVROLET TACUMA CDX Auto, Silver, low mileage.....	£1795
07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6 Gold, FSH.....	£3495	53 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 2-door, Full MOT and Tax.....	£1295
05 NISSAN MICRA 1.4 5-door, Full MOT.....	£2995	04 FORD KA Red, Lovely Car, Drive Away.....	£1495
56 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5-dr. Blue Metallic, 1 owner, low mileage.....	£2995	52 FIAT STILO 1.2p, 5-door, Green, Alloys.....	£1395
		02 FIAT PUNTO SPORTING 1.2, Blue, Alloy Wheels.....	£995
		52 ROVER 25 5-door, Blue Metallic, Long MOT.....	£1195

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Snow go? Then Peugeot's 2008 may be the answer

Drive time with Graham Breeze



JUST a few months after being impressed on the launch of the Peugeot 2008, I took another look and again came away with a good feeling about this new arrival.

On test was the 2008 Feeline 1.6 e-HDi 115 version and I was so taken with the option I have already recommended it to a relative looking to buy.

This 2008 is a real money saving alternative for those seeking the assurance of four wheel drive performance because it comes complete with Peugeot's superb new "grip control" as standard.

This system optimises traction in poor grip conditions and puts this crossover into a different league when combined with the 165mm ground clearance and advanced traction control.

The system works because grip control transfers torque to the tyre with the most grip in a scrabbling manner allowing the 2008 to even

If you need lots of room in the rear, the 2008 certainly fits the bill

negotiate a ski slope. It comes as standard with Allure and Feline trims, or is a £300 extra on lower-spec models.

The SUV crossover currently occupies less than seven per cent of the European B-segment but this is just the type of vehicle to see sales spiral upwards.

The challenge to all producers in this sector is to provide something distinctive and Peugeot have got things just right. Not only does the 2008 have the cutting edge with the new "grip" system but it also has winning looks too.

Inside Peugeot has developed a new look too with the fascia capping covered in a silky material and a brilliant aircraft style handbrake situated close to the easy-to-handle grip control system.

The 2008 shares 67 per cent of its underbody with the 208 hatchback but has longer body overhangs. It's 200mm longer, 96mm taller and 25mm as well as 162mm more ground clearance.

If you are a driver needing lots of rear room then the 2008 should be on your radar. While the rear seating isn't the most comfortable in

the sector everything folds completely flat to offer 1,194 litres of space.

All versions get ESP as well as anti-skid, stability control, emergency braking and electronic brake-force distribution. All round air bags are standard.

There are four badge levels, Access, Active, Allure and Feline, a choice of eight colours and a comprehensive range of petrol, diesel and e-HDi engines.

The 1.6e-HDi 115 Feline had a top speed of 117mph and 0-62mph in 10.4 seconds and a stop-start system. Running costs are low, emissions are impressive at just 106g/km and there are remarkable fuel consumption figures of 70.6mpg on the combined cycle.

Many models in the B-sector demonstrate a lot of body roll on the open road and the Peugeot is no exception but things weren't as bad as expected.

For a crossover the 2008 was actually fun to drive with a comfortable driving position and plenty of steering wheel height and reach adjustment.

For those needing the security of being able to cope with the snow or tricky conditions without the cost of four-wheel drive this Peugeot may be the answer.



Corsa 1.0i 12v ecoFLEX (65PS) Energy
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Astra 1.4i 16v Energy
 For just **£196 per month** over 60 months with £2000 Customer deposit*



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Motoring

Volvo ready to go global with brand new Polestar

THE new Volvo S60 and V60 Polestar are set for sale around the world in 2014.

The countries confirmed to take the S60 and V60 Polestar include Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the USA, with further markets, final production numbers and pricing to be revealed next year.

Whilst the S60 and V60 Polestar will be available globally, Volvo Car UK will continue to deliver on the call for fast estates by limiting availability to the new V60 Polestar only.

"We are proud to present the S60 and V60 Polestar. A car developed for those who share our passion at Polestar: That driving really matters and that a true driver's car should enable you to enjoy driving all year, on all roads and in all weather conditions. This is a driver's car for real life," said Christian Dahl, chief executive of Polestar.

"With the introduction of the V60 model, we are proud to continue the heritage of fast Volvo estates like the racing 850 BTCC, a tradition deeply rooted among Volvo enthusiasts," said Mr Dahl.

"Our motorsport co-operation with Polestar has been going on for almost two decades and it is rewarding to see how Polestar can use their experiences from motorsport to engineer such an exciting and competent car," said Derek Crabb, motorsport director at Volvo Car Group (Volvo Cars).

"It is very satisfying to see how Polestar have been able to combine this level of driving performance in their interpretation of the S60 and V60 with maintained original service program, class leading safety features and certified fuel and emission ratings. Customers buying this car will get the best from both Polestar and Volvo," said Alain Visser, senior vice president of marketing, sales and customer service at Volvo Cars.

The car is based on the latest generation Volvo S/V60 and marks the start of an extended Polestar production model range. Development of the car has been ongoing over the past years, picking up from the C30 and S60 Concept cars and the Australian S60 Polestar. Thousands of development kilometres have been driven on twisty mountain roads, on the Autobahn and test tracks from the south of Europe to the frozen north of Sweden.

"We have continued our work to create a true driver's car which is not limited only to a few specific driving conditions, but enjoyable on everything from your favourite winding roads to taking the family for a long journey, no matter summer or winter. And in my view, we have gotten very close to our goals, something that of course is best experienced first-hand behind the wheel," said Robert Dahlgren, Polestar racing and test driver.

Comfortable

Upgrades include modifications made to increase rigidity of the chassis to cater for the 80 per cent stiffer springs relative to the standard S60 R-Design. These changes combined with the tailored high performance Öhlins shock absorbers and 20" Polestar wheels results in a precise, yet comfortable, driving experience.

The brake system has undergone substantial modifications. Most visible are the 371 millimetre ventilated front discs and six-piston Brembo calipers, guaranteeing a high level of braking performance.

To reflect the increased performance of the S60 and V60 Polestar, positive aerodynamic effects have been achieved through subtle, yet efficient, modifications based on data from tests in the Volvo Cars wind tunnel. The changes are visible with the front splitters, optimising the airflow underneath the car, as well as a new rear spoiler and diffuser, increasing downforce.

The six-cylinder turbo-charged T6 engine has undergone extensive development with a new twin-scroll turbo and intercooler to produce 350 HP/257 kW at 5700 rpm and 500 Nm/369 lb-ft at 2800 rpm. The engine breathes through a 2.5" stainless steel exhaust system, making for a throaty engine note.

The six-speed automatic gearbox features a new paddle shift system that together with the Polestar developed Haldex four-wheel drive system takes the car from 0-62 mph in just 4.9 seconds and to a limited top speed of 155 mph. The gearbox as well as the four-wheel drive system and traction control system has been recalibrated in order to provide an active driving experience and maximum grip in all situations.

The interior has been reworked with new details, materials and Polestar colours, such as the steering wheel, seats and more, with the sole purpose of increasing driver support and control.

"All in all we have taken a major step forward in all areas, from chassis and engine to interior and exterior details. Development work has been focused on the overall package in order to create a car that you want to use every day, both from a practical and emotional perspective," said Henrik Fries, S/V60 Polestar technical project manager.

Polestar will begin delivery of the new S60 and V60 Polestar in June 2014 to local markets.

Visit www.nextpolestar.com for more information.



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Volvo continues its heritage of producing fast estates with the Polestar

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Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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ACT 1990
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)**

13/1476/FL REP Plc
FOR: Change of use from general office to private tuition (educational) floor.
AT: GROUND FLOOR, 47 BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 3QA

13/1558/FL
REP Plc
FOR: Use of vacant retail unit as a solicitors office (use class A2).
AT: 13 BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1DP

13/1500/FL
The Church at Junction 10
FOR: Construction of a place of worship (use class D1) following outlined planning reference No.10/1232/CL
AT: 323 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 6RL

13/1572/PL Marcity Developments
FOR: Amendments to planning permission 10/0763/FL relating to the erection of 267 dwellings reducing the number to 251 dwellings, amending details of phasing and location of affordable housing, drainage detail, landscaping, house types, and associated works (amendment to planning permission 11/1364/FL (canalside phase) and substitution of house types).
AT: WALSALL DEPOT, NORFOLK PLACE, BLOWICH ROAD, WALSALL - 13/1038/FL

13/1476/FL Richmond Hall Nursing Home
FOR: Demolition of redundant accommodation at front of building & replacement with 16 en-suite bedrooms for the care of the elderly and mentally infirm together with associated accommodation.
AT: RICHMOND HALL, NURSING HOME, 81-83 STONNALL ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 8JZ

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Reeds get through Cup run in extra time

Women's FA Cup First Round FC Redwood 2 Leicester City Ladies 1 FCR started well, putting Leicester under pressure with some good attacking play in the first 15 minutes, but it was Leicester who took the lead 25 minutes in.

The ball in from a corner fell to an unmarked player who was able to finish at close range.

The goal gave Leicester some confidence and for the remainder of the first half FCR lost their momentum in attack, finding it difficult to get the ball down and play the passing football they know.

FCR brought Donna Arrowsmith on in defence. The second half saw FCR regain their confidence and equalised on the hour. The ball fell to Mudge just inside the 18 yard box who connected with the ball perfectly, smashing it into the top of the net.

FCR took the lead with eight minutes of extra time remaining.

Burntwood get victory in Premier

Lichfield and Walsall District Football League Premier
BURNTWOOD Albion 3 Freemans FC 0; Burntwood Dragons 2 Prince of Wales 2; Pelsall Villa 1 Erdington Star 0

League One
Boney Hay 4 AC Lions 1; B-hills Comm 3 Burntwood Star 1; Cannock Wood 1 Stonnall FC 1

League Two
Duke of Wellington 4 Ros Park FC 1; Swan FC 7 Shire Oak 1; Trent Valley Rovers 1 AFC Kriss 5

League Three
Boatmans Rest 2 Turnpike 2; Dog FC 2 Alma 4; Walsall Phoenix 10 Hussey Arms 2

League Four
Eximius Warriors 3 Dosthill Rangers 0; Oak Park Rangers 2 Wych Elm FC 0; Queens FC 4 Bowman FC 3

Lichfield Challenge Cup - Round Two
Loughorn 6 Cellar Door 0
Lichfield Charity Cup - Round Two

Met Bar 5 Aldridge Town 2; Mill Farm 1 Green Rock Tavern 2; Trident FC 1 Pelsall Villa Colts 6.

Youth striker is signed up

WALSALL this week signed youth team striker Amadou Bakayoko on a professional deal for next season.

The 17-year-old is the first player from the Saddlers current crop of youngsters to be handed a pro contract for the 2014-15 campaign.

Bakayoko has scored ten goals in just 12 games for the youth team this term and has also made three appearances for the club's reserve side, scoring twice.

Academy manager Neil Woods said: "I am really pleased for him. He has worked extremely hard over the past 18 months and this is his reward for that."

Championship boxing makes a return

by Craig Birch

CHAMPIONSHIP boxing returned to Wolverhampton Civic Hall at the weekend with Leicestershire fighter Louis Norman becoming the new English fly-weight title holder.

Shepherd's Norman took the belt after coming on strong in the second half of a 10-round fight against Northampton's Nathan Reeve, taking the decision with all three judges.

Robert Chalmers had it close at 96-95, John Keane decided on 97-94 and Terry O'Connor scored 97-93. Going the distance took nothing away from a big battle

between the two little men. The card's other title fight saw Burton's Tom Shaw shed blood, sweat and tears to be crowned British Masters Bronze welter-weight champion, in a fight contested over eight rounds.

He was sliced open by a clash of heads in the second round but battled on to lose just one round against Chesterfield's Kris Davey, deservedly handed the spoils by 79-73 with Chalmers.

On the under-card, Tipton's Ricky Summers finished a nightmare 2013 with a bang as a first round stoppage marked his first

recorded at 40-36 with Chalmers.

"The Wednesday Warrior" had to battle to take all of the four rounds.

Bloxwich's Luke Paddock added the experienced Graham Fearn to his winning record as he moved to 5-0 as a professional at light welterweight.

Redditch's Andrew Robinson, a product of Lions ABC in Dudley, bloodied the nose of Mark Till as he also recorded a four-round points landslide.

Swadincote's Craig Wilshee dropped Luke Osman twice in the third round of their super mid-

weight contest to score 40-34 on points with Chalmers.

In the show's opener, debutant Paul Holt saw off Michael Stupart, again at super featherweight. The heavy-handed Brummie had his opponent running for cover to win by 40-36 on points.

Meanwhile, amateur super heavyweight Lloyd Ransom bowed out of the ABA Novice competition at the national semi-final stage after a majority points defeat on Saturday afternoon.

Cleaner work from Luke Watkins, from Fitzpatrick's in Swindon, led him to the final.

'Invisible' Benteke needs his form back

Villa 0 Sunderland 0
CHRISTIAN BENTEKE was out on the pitch against Sunderland - but nowhere to be seen.

The rampaging Belgium international could not be expected to keep up the phenomenal success rate which made him one of the most successful major league goalscorers in this calendar year.

But it all came to a grinding halt seven games ago and the Benteke Villa fans saw on Saturday bore little resemblance to the one-man wrecking ball which had been demolishing defences.

It's a problem for manager Paul Lambert because the powerful striker IS Villa - the one player capable of converting a sometimes busted currency into the gold of points.

But when the Villa manager put the ailing Benteke out of his misery with five minutes remaining, bringing on Libor Kozak in his place, there was no dissent and even a few ironic cheers from supporters.

For the welfare of his team, and perhaps this campaign, however, Lambert needs his main man to overcome his slump.

Seconds in victory over the leaders

IT was a good Saturday for Walsall rugby, with both the Second and Third XV gaining victories.

The United beat league leaders Bournville 34-29 at Delves Road.

The Third team won 29-14 against Aston Old Edwardians Seconds. Tries from Brandon Sayce, Connor Muldoon, Kevin Foster and Ben Clurco with one conversion from James Quigley.

Newcastle U-15s 5 Walsall U-15s 5

This was a tense battle in North Staffordshire with the Walsall team scoring a second half try to level the scores.

Sutton Coldfield U-14s 55 Walsall U-14s 20

Walsall were well beaten by a side on the very top of their game.

Sutton had some very fast and big backs and tried at every opportunity to pass the ball wide.

Dudley K-Ford U-13s 0 Walsall U-13s 34

Walsall, fielding a team with several new players, eventually proved too strong for a battling DK squad.

The first half was evenly matched with both teams being equally impressive in attack and defence.

Blox battle on but all in vain

Bloxwich 2 Solihull 4
BLOXWICH Men's First XI hockey squad battled hard in an unfortunate loss to league high-flyers Solihull Blossomfield.

Bloxwich dominated most of the first half and were very unlucky not to bury a couple of their chances.

They did not have the rub of the green on the day and Solihull capitalised on small errors by Bloxwich's otherwise solid defence.

Adam Baldwin and Matt Baldwin scored some excellently worked short corners.

A more positive team performance gives Bloxwich renewed hope in the run up to Christmas.

Late goal from Duggan sees Pics grab a draw

Rushall Olympic 2 Worksop Town 2
JACK DUGGAN was on the mark yet again on Saturday when his late goal earned Rushall Olympic a deserved 2-2 draw against high flying Worksop Town at Dales Lane.

The Pics suffered a huge blow before kick off when regular goalkeeper, Chris Gemmell, was ruled out with a back injury and it meant that 49-year-old, goalkeeping coach Paul Hayward was named in the starting line-up for his first league game for 10 years.

However, Pics supporters need not have worried as the keeper went on to produce a good display between the sticks.

There was a fairly quiet start to the game with the home side forcing an early corner following good play from Christian Dacres but Jimmy Turner's cross was too long and the visitors hit back through Jack Muldoon but his cross was far too high for Leon Mettam.

On 13 minutes Wayne Daniel was adjudged to have fouled Tom Denton, on the edge of the box, but Adam Murray's free kick was well saved by Hayward.

Three minutes later though the home side were ahead.

Turner's corner was only half cleared by Denton and the ball fell to Zak Martin, who controlled it and then hit a terrific shot into the bottom corner giving Jan Budtz no chance.

The Tigers were rattled by this and hit back but Adam Quinan headed another Murray free kick over the bar. Eight minutes before the break though the Tigers equalised.

Murray's corner was flicked on to the far post and it found the unmarked Tom Denton to score.

Three minutes later Worksop had turned the game on its head with a

Football

second goal. Muldoon, picked the ball up, just inside the Rushall half, and ran through unchallenged before firing home.

The home side made a bright start to the second half as they searched for an equaliser.

Ahmed Obeng, hat-trick hero, from Tuesday night, forced his way past two defenders but saw his right-foot shot palmed away by Budtz in the Worksop goal and then after good link up play between Obeng and Dele Adebola, Josh Craddock's first time shot only just cleared the bar.

Kristian Ramsey-Dickson, then replaced Adebola and the home side then had another good chance to draw level.

A mistake from Shane Clarke saw Dacres win the ball and his pass found Obeng whose job was half saved by Budtz before being cleared.

As Rushall went all out for a leveller, Matty Wood replaced Craddock and there was half chance for Obeng when he raced on to a pass from Ramsey-Dickson.

The winger was denied though by an excellent tackle from Phil Roe who conceded the corner. From the resultant kick, by Turner, the ball found it's way to the unmarked Jack Duggan who scored.

Khalsa's defeat wasn't for the want of trying



Heroic Khalsa defending keeps out Nick Wellecomme but the Willenhall side still fell to a Danny Smith goal

Chasetown 1 Sporting Khalsa 0
INCREDIBLY, this Walsall Senior Cup game remained 1-0 after a host of top saves from visiting goalkeeper Liam Stanton, while Chasetown's No.1 Danny Watson was also in fine form.

On top of that, the woodwork was struck four times in a pulsating match with the incentive of a tie against Walsall in the next round.

On the quarter-hour, Khalsa's Jon Cordy made a great block to deny Nick Wellecomme after Danny Smith had teed him up, before Khalsa's Alec Roberts smashed a shot against the post. Chasetown then thought the ball was never going to go in. Smith fed Wellecomme, whose shot hit a

post; the follow-up from Lee Butler did likewise and the third effort, from Smith, was blocked by a defender throwing himself in front of the ball.

The Scholars eventually scored and again it was a Wellecomme-Smith combination.

The former's cross, virtually from the byline, cut out Stanton and found Smith for a powerful finish from six yards. Stanton made a top save to his left to keep out Simon Brown before Watson matched him in palming over a Sam Pearson drive.

Five minutes after the break, Cordy managed to slide back and clear Butler's shot off the line.

Stanton denied substitute Joe Halls in a one-on-one and even kept

out Butler's shot from the rebound before Watson clawed away Pearson's header.

There was still time for Paul Sullivan to rattle the post in a game of great entertainment that might well have finished 6-3.

Scholars boss Craig Harris is poised to rotate his squad during a glut of fixtures.

"We played last night, we're playing tomorrow and then Tuesday," he said.

"It's a good opportunity for the youngsters to have a game. We've got a squad and we've got to use them."

Jon Gould and Johnny Haynes (hamstrings) are both ruled out while Theo Robinson has a groin problem.

Single score makes it seven games unbeaten

Quorn 0 Walsall Wood 1
WOOD made it seven League games unbeaten, as following on from Tuesday night's demolition of third place Boldmere they ground out a win at fourth placed Quorn.

The home side lost Jordan Wakeling for a professional foul just nine minutes, but they frustrated Wood until Lewis Taylor Boyce scored from close range after 67 minutes.

It was a tentative start by both sides until on six minutes Niall Prenderville collected the ball from a left wing throw, raced into the box and his rising drive was well held by Wood keeper Rajaan Gill.

3 minutes later came probably the pivotal point of the game, a ball over the top of the home defence was collected in his stride by Ahmet Bilgimer and he raced for goal, only

to be tripped from behind by Jordan Wakeling. Referee Matthew Bond had no hesitation in sending him off.

Harry Harris hitting the free kick high over. On 13 minutes Joey Butlin powered down the left, played the ball across the face of the box.

Bilgimer appeared to be hacked down, but the ball ran on to Lewis Taylor Boyce who cut back inside and his low drive was saved by Laurie Pearson.

No recall for the foul on Bilgimer, that was a cast iron penalty.

Three minutes later from a right wing free kick Prenderville headed goalwards, Gill saving comfortably.

After 22 minutes Shawn Boothe came out of defence with the ball and hit a lovely left to right diagonal ball to put Taylor Boyce racing into the right of the box, Pearson

saving bravely at his feet. After 34 minutes a long ball forward was collected by Liam Turner on the left of the box, he went through a tackle before laying the ball square to Liam Read to fire a shot just wide.

With 43 minutes gone an intricate right wing move ended with Michael Reeves shot charged down, but the ball fell to Turner whose goalbound effort was cleared off the line by Andre Gonzales.

Controversy at the start of the second half, Butlin raced onto a ball just outside the box, a defender got a touch back to Pearson, Butlin fell over the defenders outstretched leg to big penalty shouts, which the Referee rightly waved away, but every player on the field seemed to have an opinion on the incident and they all raced to the edge of the box to get involved.

On 52 minutes Prenderville went through

two tackles and raced into the left of the box, Boothe calmly dispossessed him but was then fouled.

Prenderville then released Read into the right of the box, he went through three tackles, his low drive saved by Gill.

Taylor Boyce made space wide right, crossed into the box and Butlin's header was easily saved.

A minute later Craig Hancox came in from wide left and played a ball through the defence, Pearson racing from his box to kick clear from Samson Alalade.

Then on 67 minutes Harry Harris delivered a central free kick into the left of the area, Boothe climbed highest and headed the ball back across the box into the danger area, Taylor Boyce firing into the roof of the net.

SPORT

Duggan digs in

Late score stops the loss for Olympic
Page 43

Khalsa killer

Single goal sinks Sporting squad
Page 43



Sports Desk 01902 319531

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Patience call from Smith on goal tally

DEAN SMITH called for patience and claimed Walsall's goal-scoring record is not a cause for concern.

The Saddlers have scored just 20 goals in 19 league games, the lowest number of any team in the League One top half and drew another blank in Saturday 2-0 home defeat to Port Vale.

But Smith remains confident the goals will eventually start to flow on a more consistent basis and urged fans to keep the faith.

"We are creating chances and we will score goals," he said. "People have to be patient. The way we want to play, the way we want to do things it's very easy to lose patience when we are losing games."

"But we have a belief in what we are trying to do and how we are going to try and do it."

"The players we have obviously feel they could have done better on Saturday but is it a massive concern, no? If we keep creating chances we will put them away."

"It was one of those days when we didn't score from our better chances and probably our use of the ball in the 18-yard box could have been better."

Goals in each half from Tom Pope and Gavin Tomlin earned Vale a first league win away to the Saddlers since 1947.

Rallying cry from Taylor

ANDY TAYLOR has issued a rallying cry as Walsall prepare to face Leyton Orient in the FA Cup on Saturday.

The Saddlers will be looking to bounce back from last weekend's defeat to Port Vale when they head to Brisbane Road to face the League One leaders in the second round.

In their attempt to reach the third round for the first time since 2007, on paper Dean Smith's side could not have been handed a harder task.

But left-back Taylor says the prospect of facing Orient does not faze them - and says players will instead relish the challenge.

"Every footballer likes a challenge, the ones I know anyway," he said.

"Personally I would rather have the challenge and Leyton Orient is a better one than a lower league team. Obviously, I think you always prefer a home draw but away it is a good test."

Halbert's crew hold on to keep winning run

Whitchurch 32 Walsall 33

STEVE HALBERT has been the captain of Walsall for five years, but he had to draw on all of his leadership experience to ensure his team continued their winning streak.

Any thoughts of victory seemed a forlorn hope at half time as Whitchurch built up a 27-7 advantage at Edeley Park.

Fly-half Nicholas had kicked two penalties and then converted three tries for his team.

Forward power resulted in Bates going over for two of them, and a fine individual effort by winger Tom Skone saw him beat four Walsall defenders as he ran in a try from 50 metres. The visitors were forced to

Rugby

defend for long periods during the first half, and several players, for virtually the first time this season, were guilty of missing tackles and being rather ineffective at the breakdown area.

The team, however, had already displayed their attacking potential with a try after only eight minutes.

Full back Chris Mould interchanged passes with Paul Naylor. Eventually the Walsall winger cut back and beat the cover defence to score near the goal posts.

Weston added the easy conversion. The

second half turnaround was dramatic as Walsall scored a try during the opening minute. With winger Dave Pitt running in from 15 metres.

Ten minutes later Pitt was away again on a try scoring run. Two minutes later Halbert dispossessed an opponent and made 20 metres before giving Max Hughes the try scoring pass. Another Weston conversion made the score 27-26 after just 15 minutes of the second half.

As the game was reaching the final 10 minutes, they put together some good forward drives and then some quick passes put winger Davies over for a try near the

corner flag. Crucially for Walsall the difficult conversion was missed and they still had time to complete an unlikely comeback. Neil Pittaway and Matt Wood combined. The fly half found Luke Pittaway on his shoulder. The delight on the young hooker's face was obvious as he burst through to touchdown under the crossbar.

Weston put over the conversion to establish a one point advantage. The visitors retained possession for the remaining few minutes and managed to complete their great escape. This Saturday Walsall have their final home game of the year against Barkers Butts.

Lockmen can't get rewards

Dudley Sports 2 Willenhall 1

THE Lockmen got no reward for their efforts after dominating long stretches of the West Midlands Premier match at Dudley Sports.

They could have scored within 15 seconds of the start but an awkward bouncing effort from Tony Clift was taken by Dominic Richards.

Clift then rolled an effort beyond the post on three minutes before Eddie Wilson saw his goal-bound effort blocked and Clift's follow-up was well saved.

Sports threatened on 10 minutes when an overhead kick from Craig Tibbetts was well caught by Steve Booth.

A minute later, the visitors had the lead when Clift and Wilson combined before the latter set up Scott Harris who fought his way to the byline and pulled the ball back for Simon Laidley to net.

Within a minute, Sports were level when a hopeful ball down the left saw Tom Rann slip and Alex Welch raced on to score.

On 14 minutes, Sports struck again; this time a ball was played out right, 30 yards from goal, and Tom Overfield produced a stunning, dipping strike that flew right in the top right hand corner of Booth's net.

Both sides had plenty of chances to increase the scoreline in the second-half. Efforts by Clift and Wilson produced fine saves and Laidley headed just over.

Both sides had plenty of chances to increase the scoreline in the second-half, Booth made two double saves when left one-on-one with attackers and his opposite number did brilliantly to deny a pile driver.

VALIANTS 66-YEAR VICTORY WAIT OVER

Walsall 0 Port Vale 2

SATURDAY'S 2-0 success was the first for the Valiants in a league fixture away to the Saddlers since Ronnie Allen, then an 18-year-old prospect, got the winner in a 2-1 win in 1947.

Gavin Tomlin was the standout man in an excellent performance from the visitors which asked yet more questions of Walsall's firepower.

He scored the second midway through the second half after Pope had opened the scoring in the first, but his tenacity and aggression were typical of his teammates, in a game which left the home side with a serious case of déjà vu.

Superb wins over Shrewsbury and Peterborough in the last two home fixtures may have had onlookers purring, but it is defeats like Saturday's which have been all too familiar at the Banks's this season.

Proof

Saturday was further proof much more progress still needs to be made.

Vale, like Preston, Bradford and Coventry before them, followed a gameplan of high tempo pressing to the letter and it worked as the Saddlers could find no path past the wall of visiting shirts.

Meanwhile, in the attacking third, the visitors were able to exploit a home defence suffering from uncharacteristic uncertainty.

Pope and Tomlin's goals were the first conceded from open play by the Sad-

Football

dlers in more than a month.

Dean Smith's assertion his side had "controlled" the game was met with raised eyebrows from opposite number Micky Adams, an understandable reaction.

Walsall had plenty of possession - no question - but created precious little with it and Vale rarely looked flustered.

Their 20-year-old keeper, Sam Johnson, was making his first professional league appearance but wasn't called into any serious action until 10 minutes into the second half, when he was forced to push away James Chambers' fierce drive from 35 yards out.

Johnson also saved well from Craig Westcarr, again from distance, and the only clear-cut opportunity came in the final five minutes when the ball fell kindly to lively substitute Ashley Hemmings eight yards out.

The argument over Walsall's cutting edge, or lack of it, has raged for most of the season - but it is now just 20 goals scored in 19 league games.

One way or another, that statistic must improve if any sustained assault on the top six is to be made.



Walsall's Craig Westcarr tries to find a way through the Port Vale rearguard but the Saddlers faltered

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